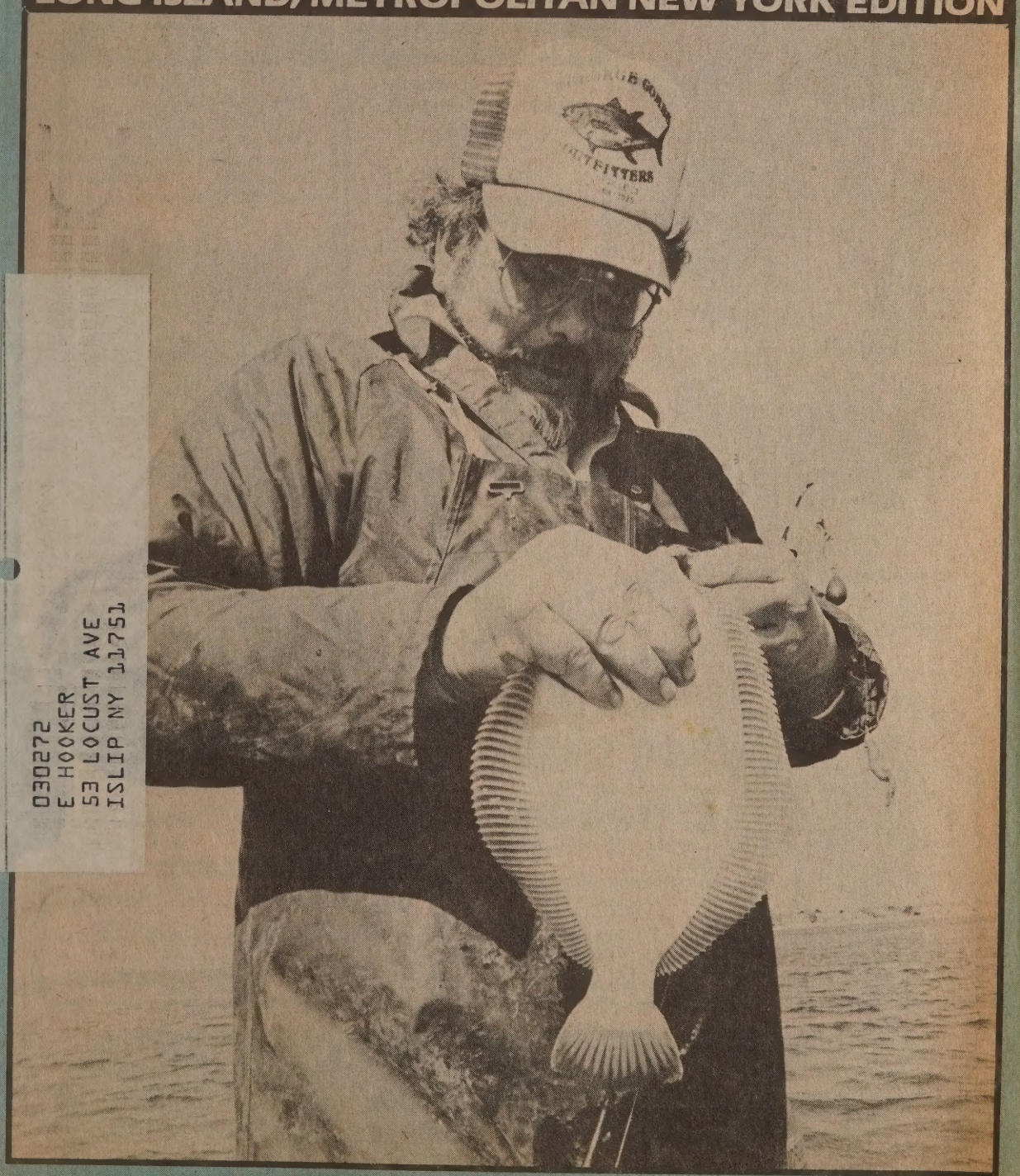
February 6th—12th, 1986, No. 5

75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION



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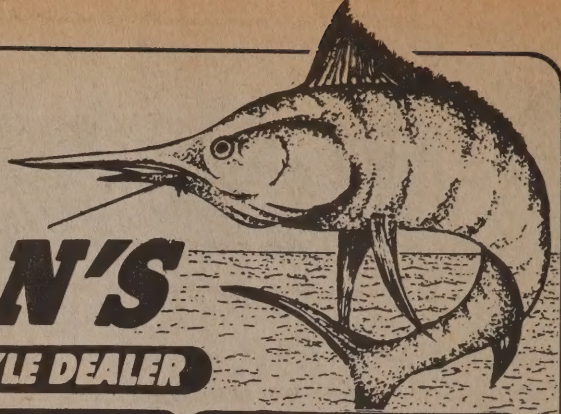

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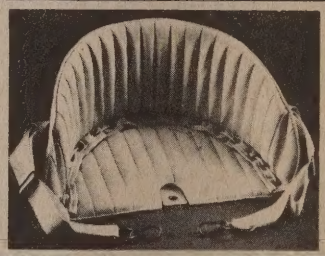

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 21, Number 5 February 6th, 1986

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ABOUT THE COVER:

It won't be long before Long Island anglers set their sights on spring flatties. For those who like to plan ahead, the first of The Fisherman's 1986 Inshore Contests is the Captree Flounder Derby slated for April 19th and 20th. A complete derby schedule appears on this week's back cover. Watch for details on these upcoming events in the weeks ahead. Cover photo by Dick Mermon.

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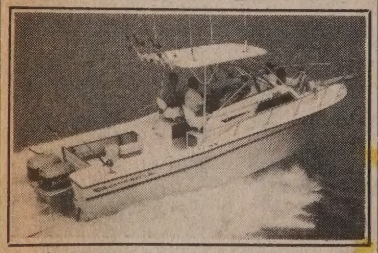

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FLOTILLA 3-2 BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Flotilla 3-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a free Boating Safety Course at their Barge, Meadowlands Pkwy, Secaucus, NJ (next to the Aratusa Restaurant).

It begins February 24th at 7:30 PM and continues twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays for six week. Pre-registration is required. It will cover boating skills and seamanship, including instruction on boat handling, legal requirements, rules of the road, piloting, marlinspike and radio telephone. The only charge involves a fee of $25 to cover the cost of materials and testing.

For more information, call 864-4073, Emile De Cosmo, Public Education officer, Fl. 3-2. Upon completion of the course, students will be awarded a certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Family participation is greatly encouraged.

MAKO TOURNAMENT DATES ANNOUNCED

The Bay Shore Tuna Club will hold their 25th Annual Bay Shore Mako Tournament on June 28 and June 29. It is considered one of the most prestigious tournaments in the Metropolitan area. In 1985, for the two day tournament, a total of 230 boats sailed.

For more information, contact Michael Stellato, Tournament Chairman at (516) 842-2000 or (516) 665-7760.

LONG ISLAND SOUND TIDE CALENDAR AVAILABLE

Introducing the all new 1986 Tide Calendar for Long Island Sound. This attractive nautical calendar is as pretty as it is practical. In addition to providing the daily tide predictions for harbors in this area, it contains a wealth of other important data for power boaters, sailors, fishermen, beachgoers and everyone who enjoys Long Island Sound.

Easy to read, each page shows the daily predictions for one month laid out in calendar format with the time of high and low water plus the height of high tide. It also shows the phases of the moon, days when the moon is in apogee and perigee and the times of sunrise and sunset on Long Island Sound at 71 degrees N 43 degrees West. Vital information for people interested in shoreline activities in Nassau, Westchester and Fairfield Counties.

Attractively designed in a nautical theme, it measures 8'' x 13'' for easy hanging on a wall or displaying on a table top. And there's plenty of writing space around each date to note important events. A handy item for the office, home, boat or beach cottage. You may want more than one.

The publisher of this calendar is a long-time boater on Long Island Sound with extensive experience in both sail and power boating.

To order, write to: Bell Island Enterprises, Inc., 30 Rowayton Avenue, Rowayton, CT 06853; (203) 853-8036.

The cost is $3.50 plus $1 for postage and handling. Connecticut Residents add 26 cents for sales tax.

CERTIFIED COURSES FOR SAIL & POWER BOATERS

The Neptune Sail and Power Squadron is offering two basic boating courses for both adults and young boaters (ages 10 to 15). Subjects covered are Coast Guard Regulations, seamanship, charts, buoy systems, navigation and more. Certificates will be awarded to those passing the final examination. Registration for classes is as follows:

Tuesday, February 25, 8PM, Rm. L-201, Northport High School, Elwood Road, East Northport.

Wednesday, March 5, Half Hollow Hills High School East, 8PM, Vanderbilt Parkway, Dix Hills.

There is a nominal charge for materials. For information call 266-2498 or 421-0774 after 6PM.

BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Plum Beach Power Squadron, Brooklyn, New York, will be offering the Boating Course beginning on January 28th, with late registration and first class on February 4th. The course will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 PM to 10 PM at Kingsborough Community College, Building T4, Room 212.

For further information, call P/C Barry Babich, AP, at (718) 667-5990 or Lt/C Richard Petrosino, AP, (212) 675-6262.

BABYLON TUNA CLUB FISHING SCHOOL

The Babylon Tuna Club's (BTC) fishing school will be held at the American Legion Hall, 22 Grove Street in Babylon. Registration according to Chairman Ralph Perone will begin at 7PM on February 12th and the first session will follow at approximately 8PM. There will be a total of eight sessions which will include both offshore and inshore fishing. Each session will be conducted by an expert in his specialty and many techniques will be shared with attendees. Free coffee and cake will be served each night. Cost of the classes will be $25 and anyone who wishes to join the BTC will have that cost deducted from their initiation dues. CHildren 14 years old and younger are welcomed and their cost

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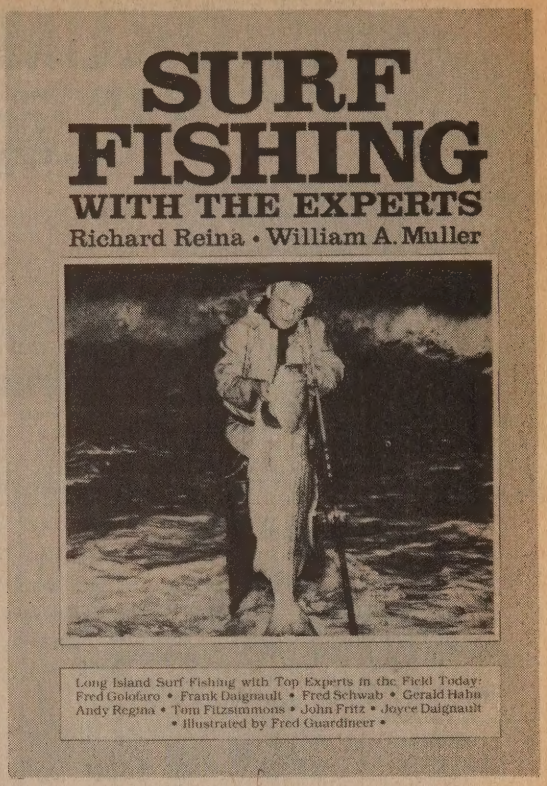
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Jerry Kenney, DAILY NEWS

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Nick Karas, NEWSDAY

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Nelson Bryant, NEW YORK TIMES

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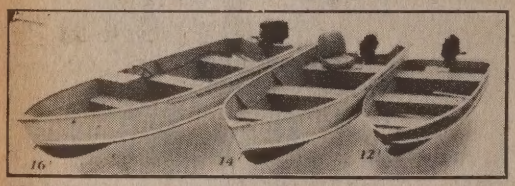

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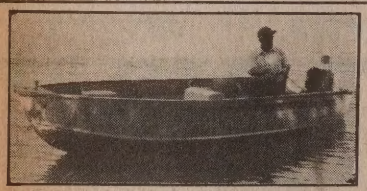

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will be $12.

Also, there will be various films shown about reel maintenance, rod winding, rope splicing, line splicing, knot tying and use of navigational equipment including Loran. For additional information, call Ralph Perone at (516) 669-9837.

"SOUP OF THE SEA" FROM COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Suffolk County Cooperative Extension is offering a "Soups of the Sea" workshop. There will be a brief lecture on basic seafood nutrition and hands-on for preparation of various chowders and bisques.

The sessions will be held February 11th at the Suffolk County Cooperative Extension Office, 246 Griffing Ave., Riverhead from 9:30 AM to Noon and February 13th at the Lindenhurst Jr. High School, 350 South Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst from 7PM to 9:30 PM. The cost is $5 per session.

Please contact Mary Ann Trojanowski at 727-7850 to reserve a space.

SMTC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The following officers and directors for 1986 were elected at the annual meeting of the Shinnecock Marlin and Tuna Club last fall:

Bob Hubler, President; Floyd Carrington, Vice President; Werner Landsberg, Treasurer; Rose Cadorette, Secretary; Marty Arrow, Doug Stark and Stan Landberg, Directors.

A big hand and many thanks go to the 1985 officers for all the hard work and planning that made last year great for the club.

Anyone interested in receiving tournament or membership information, please write to: SMTC, P.O. Box 9, Hampton Bays, NY 11946.

1986 MARINE INDUSTRIES DAY SCHEDULED

Marine recreational businesses such as marinas, charter boat operations and fishng stations play an important role in Long Island's economy. To help meet the needs of these diverse enterprises, the 1986 Marine Industries Day has been scheduled for Friday, February 7, from 11:30AM to 5:30PM in the Shinnecock Building on the Suffolk County Community College eastern campus in Speonk.

The purpose of this annual program is to provide marine-related enterprises with practical information that will enhance their businesses. Workshops designed specifically for marina owners, professional boatmen and fishing stations will cover a wide range of business and technical topics including: advertising and marketing tips, government loan programs, methods for reducing ice damage and marine insurance.

The program is jointly sponsored by a number of marine industry associations in cooperation with the Sea Grant Extension Program. Tickets are $5 in advance, $7 at the door. Preregistration is recommended. For

more information, call the Sea Grant Office at 246-7777.

NEW SLATE ELECTED BY OAKDALE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

The Oakdale Sportsmen's Club has elected a new slate of officers for 1986. They are:

Arty Rappolt, President; Howie Svendsen, Vice Pres.; George Schaefer, Sec'y.; Ed Grant, Treasurer; D.J. Paolella, Corr. Sec'y.

Outgoing officers are: Ray Schmidt, Pres.; Henry Schnabel, Vice Pres.; Bernie Zollo, Sec'y.; Harvey Langabeer, Treasurer; and Alex Jaksim, Corr. Sec'y.

NICK'S POINT TUNA CLUB'S NEW SLATE FOR '86

The Nick's Point Tuna Club is proud to announce their new slate for 1986:

Robert Abatemarco, President; Dom Amendolaro, Vice Pres.; Irwin Weiss, Sec'y.; Harry Weinblatt, Treas.; John Demeno and Joe Dymant, Tournament; Ed Bing and Don Johnson, Boating; Jim Boulokos and Steve Gutlieber, Public Relations; Al Goodis and Rich Geneti, Rules; and George Kunnman and John Kalman, Membership.

STRIPER SURF CLUB ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

The Striper Surf Club Inc., is opening its Roll Book for new membership. Anyone interested in joining a well-established and serious surf fishing club can attend an open meeting on February 10, 1986 at 8:30 PM at The Plattdeutsche park Restaurant, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Squire.

Reservations are a must. Please call Barry Simon evenings after 7PM at (516) 785-2404.

NEW SHAKESPEARE WARRANTY PROGRAM OFFERS ADVANCED SERVICE CENTER NETWORK

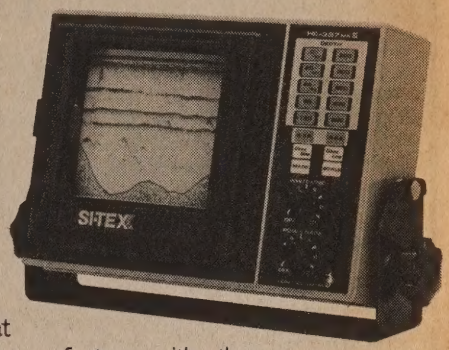
Shakespeare proudly announces a comprehensive new service center warranty program designed to offer Shakespeare customers the fastest service available on reel and motor repairs and parts orders, using the best repair centers available in the United States and Canada.

Service center employees from across North America have participated in an in-depth training session at Shakespeare's Columbia, South Carolina facilities, including plant tours conducted to give service representatives firsthand knowledge of Shakespeare's commitment to quality built products.

Reels and parts orders may be sent directly by Shakespeare customers to the customer's designated service center, or sent to Columbia for forwarding by Shakespeare. For a complete list of service centers, customers should contact their local Shakespeare dealer.

For more information on the program, contact Helen Hensen, Shakespeare Fishing Tackle, (803) 754-7540.

Its keys please.



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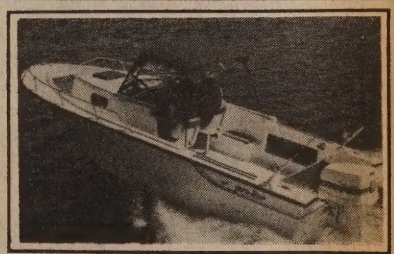

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BOATS FOR ANGLERS:

PRO-LINE 20 SPORT FISHERMAN

by Pete Barrett

The Pro-Line philosophy of building a rugged, long lasting fishing skiff has been a very successful formula. Sid Kennedy of Pro-Line summed it up this way: "We've been building boats for over 18 years that appeal to fishermen who want to spend more time fishing and less time cleaning their boats. We keep teak to a minimum and design our boats to be roomy, easy to clean and functional. Everything we do on a Pro-Line is to provide better fishing and less maintenance.

The latest model of the 20 Sport Fisherman is further proof that the company's dedication to fishermen and reputation for building good boats is well deserved. They've taken a veteran "old-timer" and made some significant improvements to bring her into the 1980s.

The two major improvements in the 20 Sport Fisherman include a widening of the transom which adds more deck space, more hull efficiency and more stability. The new wide flaring bow not only looks nice, but it also deflects spray on choppy days. The stem now has a new rakish angle which also adds to the fast look of the new model.

The hull is a shallow vee that's just about perfect for running bays, sounds and inshore coastal waters. Although rated for a maximum of 140 hp, the excellent lift of this hull plus the low drag resistance of the shallow vee allow very fast speeds with engines of 90 to 115 hp. If you run long distances to the fishing grounds or cover a lot of territory in a day's fishing, then the big engine is a good choice. If you make short runs down a river to your favorite weakfish or fluke hole, then a smaller engine will be just fine.

Pro-Line kept the foredeck to a minimum to allow more deck room for standing and casting. There is enough room under the foredeck to store the anchor and a real nice touch is the ventilated anchor locker hatch. A short raised bow deck gives some added height for casting or flyrodding and has a large storage compartment built into it which drains overboard.

The bow is bordered with a stainless steel grab rail with a low profile and split in the center. There's plenty to grab hold of while anchoring or docking, but the railing is ideal for fishing and won't get in the way of casting, netting or gaffing your catch.

The main deck forward of the console is very large and Pro-Line intended it to be so. There is no seat built into the front of the console so the angler can add his own seating as desired. The factory offers an Igloo cooler seat, complete with padded cushion and special tie-downs to keep it from sliding while under way. Or, you can add your own cooler, storage locker or custom tackle box storage.

The console sits slightly more forward than on some center console boats and I like this. It gives a lot more room at the stern where you need it most and it helps to keep spray off the passengers while under way on a windy day.

Access to the console is through an aft opening with sliding plexiglass doors and there is a lot of room here for tackle boxes, foul weather gear, emergency equipment and other tackle. There's a built-in conduit running from under the console and under the deck to snakes the wiring from the controls to the engine.

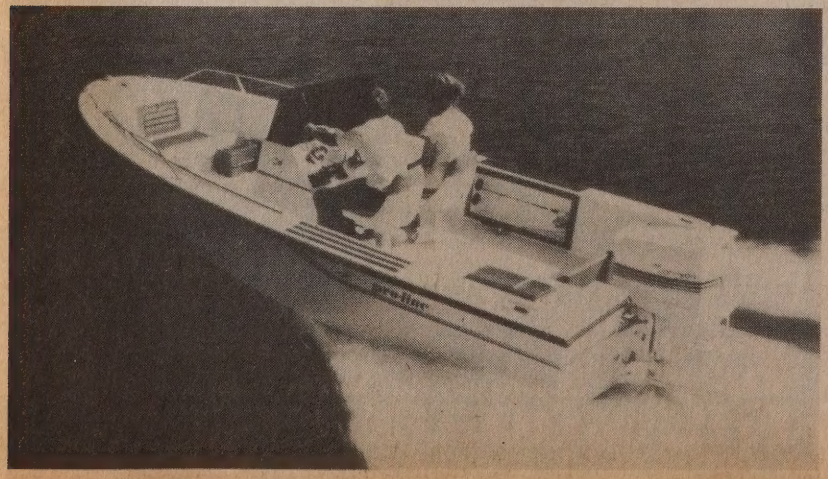
Rod holders are built-in under the gun'ls and will hold 2 rods per side and will hold light tackle rods up to 7 feet in length. The rod holders are adequate for fluke, bluefish and weakfish tackle, but would be a little tight for trolling gear. If additional rod storage is required, vertical rod holders of teak and ABS tubing can be added alongside the console.

I liked the stern fishing area. There's deck space for 2 to 3 anglers to fish at the same time. A large fish box is molded into the port transom corner covered by a thick teak lid. To starboard is a battery box with enough room to hold two batteries, pumps, engine oil reservoirs, battery switch and a wiring panel.

A sealed, screw off inspection port just ahead of the transom provides access into the bilges for mounting and servicing the bilge pump, transducers and wash down pumps.

Workmanship is excellent. The little bit of teak that is on the boat is neatly done and with extra thick sections. The teak lids on the battery and fish boxes can be walked on with no reservations. Hardware is chosen for durability and function. Close inspection of the gel coat reveals a high gloss, smooth finish that many more expensive boats would envy.

Depending on your needs and pocketbook there are a lot of things that can be done to the Pro-Line 20. Some anglers will feel the boat is perfect just as it is: a simple, highly functional boat. Others may want to add things like tackle lockers, rocket launcher seats and added seating. The boat can certainly be jazzed up as far as anyone might want to take it, and this is a compliment to the versatility of the basic design of the boat, yet the more that gets put on it, the further it strays from the concept of a perfect inshore fishing machine. Its beauty is in its simplicity.



SPECIFICATIONS

Length	20'
Beam	7'8"
Draft	10"
Hull Weight	1750 pounds
Maximum Horsepower	140
Fuel Capacity	55 gallons

Manufactured by: Pro-Line, Post Office Box 1348, Crystal River, Florida 32629, (904) 795-4111.

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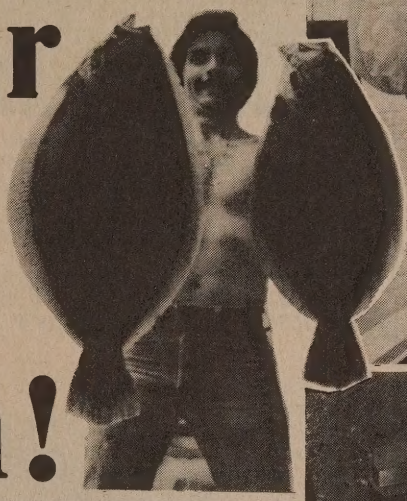

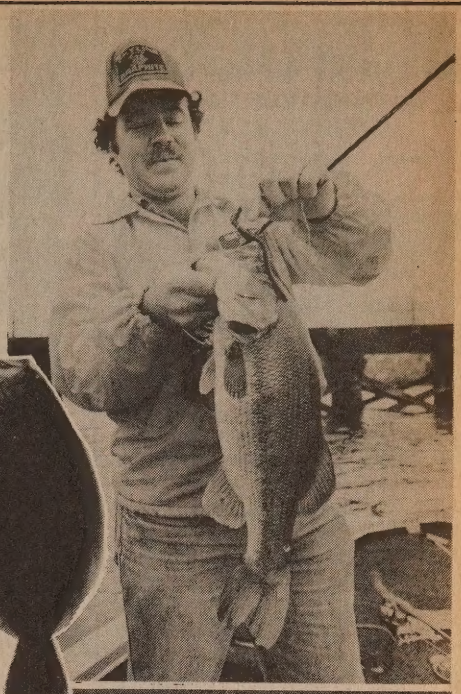

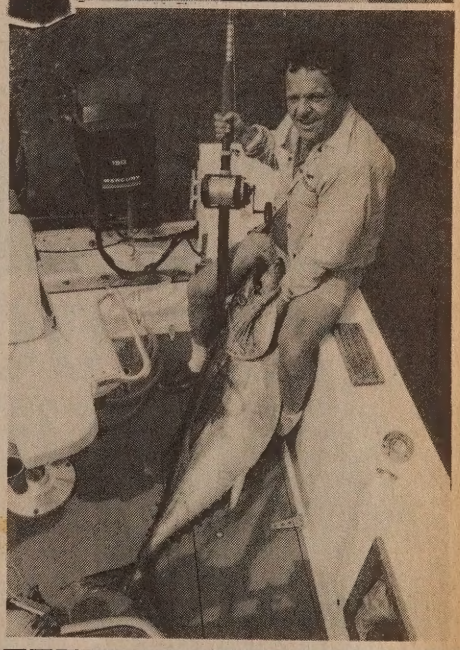

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★ PRODUCT REVIEW ★

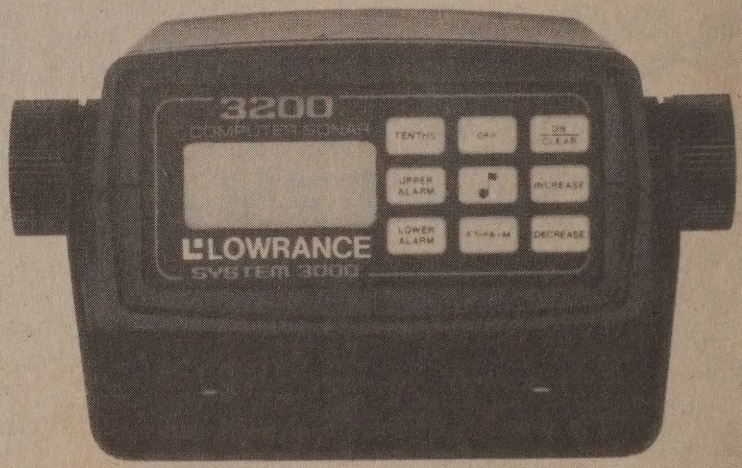
LOWRANCE 3200/3400 DIGITAL

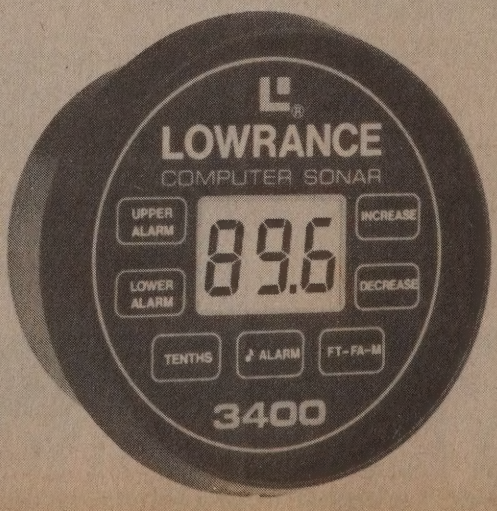
by Greg Venturo

Every year it seems like it's harder to keep up with the new product changes that are announced each year. This is especially true when it comes to electronics and Lowrance is no exception to the rule.

Craig Guanya of Lowrance seemed especially eager to show the new model 3400 digital depth gauge at the recent New York Boat Show, and with good reason. The new 3400 (flush mount), 3200 (gimbal mount) depth sounders have some neat new features that make them unique.

Both units offer depth ranges from 0-999 feet. The machines are both capable of reading the depth in feet, fathoms or meters. Now the first thing





that I asked Craig was, "It's nice that the numbers can read to 999 feet, but do the machines have enough power to make them work to that depth? After all, they are only two inches wide and three inches deep." Craig's answer was an absolute "Yes!" He stated that the unit was capable of 600 watts of peak to peak power and when coupled with the 8 degree transducer it should hit the 999 foot mark with no trouble at all. I can believe this, since my older 3600 I bought last year was reading down to 1438 feet with the 8 degree transducer.

The new 3400 series can read in one tenth of a foot increments. That's a real nice feature for those of us who fish the skinny water in Barnegat Bay, Great South Bay or Chesapeake Bay.

The shallow and deep water alarms can really be appreciated. If you are poking along the intracoastal and shooting the breeze with a few friends and you get out of the channel, an audible alarm alerts you to the oncoming shallow water situation and allows you to prevent damage to expensive underwater hardware.

Lowrance states that you can read the 3400 at speeds up to 70 miles an hour. So for all of you GO boaters who would look up and find yourself out of the channel with twin high horsepower cleaver props cutting someone's front grass, this feature should be a real plus for you.

Even when cruising at night, Lowrance has incorporated a Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) that's backlighted for better visibility.

When you wanted a depth gauge at the bridge or helm and another on the tower you used to have to buy two units and chop two holes in the bottom of the hull to do it. The 3400 and 3200 both have remote depth indicators available from Lowrance. Both remote units operate off the same transducer as the main unit and have all functions and operating keys built right in. Judging by my past experience with my older digital depth finder from Lowrance, the newer versions look real good.

I talked to Pete Barrett who has seen the gimbal mount 3200 Lowrance Digital and he echoed my comments. His unit was able to read consistently to 140 fathoms while trolling the canyon waters and also performed with no hitches in much shallower water, too.

The 3400 will flush mount in a 2½ inch hole while the 3200 gimbal mount needs an area 6½ inches wide by 5½ inches deep and stands less than 4 inches high.

SPECIFICATIONS

Depth Scale . . . . . 0 to 999 feet
Readout . . . . . 1/10 foot increments
Operating Speed . . . . . + 70 mph
Operating Frequency . . . . . 192 kHz
Transducer Cone Angles . . . . 8 or 20°
Power . . . . . 600 watts

Manufactured by: Lowrance Electronics, Inc., 12000 Skelly Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128, (918) 437-6881.

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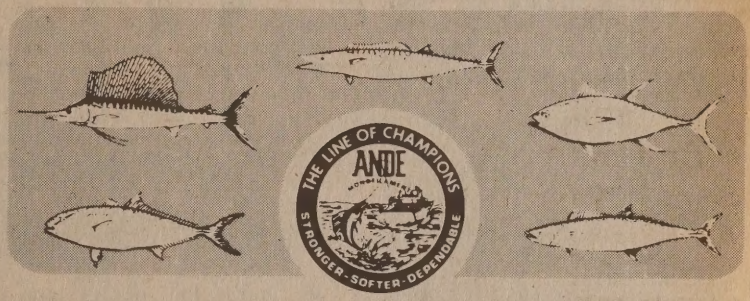

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

My son and I fish Georges Bank and Nantucket quite frequently. There are many times when a 20 oz. sinker is a "must." We are able to buy these larger sinkers without much difficulty and do lose our share in a season.

We have the facilities to make our sinkers, which we do. The highest weight we can go, however, is 16 oz. and that is just not enough under various conditions.

My problem is this: I have been unable to purchase a 20 oz. sinker mold with any or no, combinations whatever. I have been to all the local tackle shops and have written to a couple of manufacturers who make sinker molds. The largest mold they have is 16 oz., or the 2 lb. size (rock cod type) which is too heavy for our specific needs.

Would you know where I may purchase the size mold I'm seeking? Any help is greatly appreciated.

Victor Schaffer.

Dear Victor,

The quickest and easiest solution is to visit a local machine shop and ask them to make you a mold. It may cost a little more, but will definitely last many, many years. Most machine shop mechanics can construct high quality molds that will have two or three individual pour spouts so you can make two or three sinkers each time you fill the mold.

We were in need of an "eel squid" mold a few years ago and couldn't locate a mail order company or any tackle shop that could, or would, fill our needs, so we had a quality mold made by one of the area machine shops for about $60. It's a high price to pay, but the mold is quality and will outlast us.

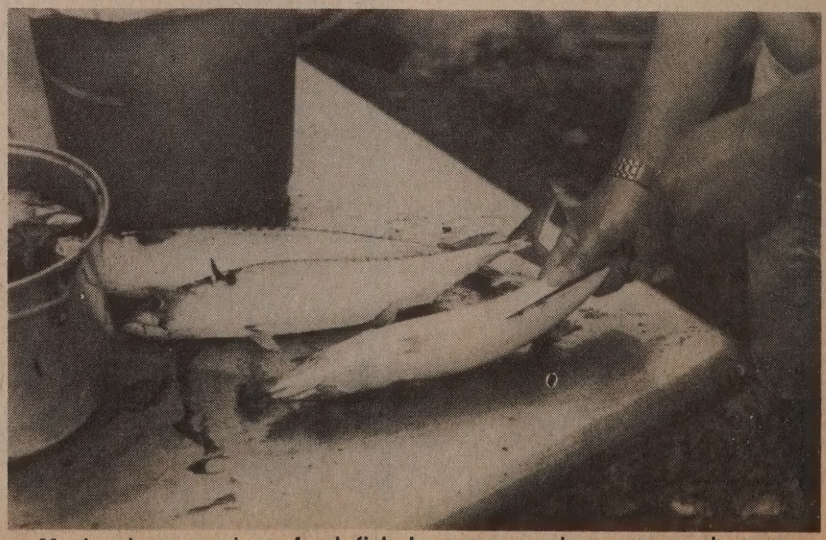
Any tool and die maker can supply you with a high quality mold. One source, Ed Kuntz, 1521 Sunset Terrace, Wall Township, NJ 07719, (201) 681-6172, has been making molds for many years and may even have what you're looking for in stock.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I'm writing this letter to see if you could help me obtain some information. I was reading your article entitled "Whiting and Ling Provide Season Finale," and I would like to find a location of a commercial smokery for my whiting. As mentioned in your article, I feel this is one of the finest ways to eat whiting and would like to partake in this feast this winter. I live in Philadelphia, very close to the Tacony Bridge. If you could tell me of a smokery close by, I would greatly appreciate it. I will wait for your response in your Tackle Doctor section.

Also, I would like to add that I enjoy



Mackerel, spurned as food fish by many anglers, are much more palatable when smoked.

your informative and interesting article very much. *Greg Witalec.*

Dear Greg,

Thanks for the vote of confidence. It is appreciated.

I'm sorry, but I do not know of a local smokery where you can have your catch prepared. Why not try doing it yourself? There are some dandy smokers currently on the market and most are reasonably priced and easy to master.

Without plugging one product above another, I can suggest the "Little Chef," which has been around for a number of years and is small enough to suffice for the individual who wants to smoke a small amount of fish for home consumption. We've used ours for several years and it's as good as new. You will find that whiting are excellent when smoked, but other species also take well to smoking. Even the false albacore, which is too bloody when prepared in other ways, is excellent smoked; and tuna, marlin, eels and bluefish also take well to smoking.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I got one for you. A friend of the family recently passed away and much of his rather extensive fishing tackle collection was willed to my father and I. Mixed in amongst the rods, reels and lures was a box of fishing flies that look very different from any I've seen in my 25 years of fresh and salt water fishing.

Most of the flies are tied on hooks which have a black finish, are brightly colored much like the Royal Coachman and instead of the traditional single hook have a 2-hook arrangement with the shank of the hook split near the bend so there are two barbs instead of the standard single barb.

Bet this one's got you stumped!

Roger McGinley.

Dear Roger,

Sorry to ruin your fun, but I do know what those flies were tied to catch and where they were used.

They are "salmon" flies and more likely than not have an up-turned eye rather than the traditional down-turned eye. The black finish of the hook is a dead giveaway for most salmon anglers use the black finish when tying their favorite patterns.

Also, the 2-hook setup, with one hook facing to the east at about a 30 degree angle and the second facing west at the same angle was used in the belief that it was a better fish catcher than the single hook style fly.

Salmon fishermen who fished Canadian provinces, Maine and other salmon waters used this type hook regularly—usually to the point where they wouldn't consider anything else but a double barbed fly.

Incidentally, those old flies could be worth a few bucks to a serious collector. They are becoming increasingly scarce and will eventually command higher prices among collectors.

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★★★ NEWS UPDATE ★★★

STRIPER MANAGEMENT

by William A. Muller

In October, 1985, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met at its annual convention to discuss among other issues the continued management of striped bass. According to Senator Owen Johnson, representing New York State at the Southampton meeting, "... we adopted an amendment to the Striped Bass Management Plan. The amendment will impose a 33 inch minimum size limit for harvesting striped bass, by 1987. The 33 inch size limit was arrived at in order to afford maximum protection to the 1982 year class."

It was this amendment that started both the rumor mill and a river of anxiety. It is the purpose of this article to provide as clear and accurate a summary of where we are now and where we are going in striped bass management. Several points are clear already. One, East Coast states are finally taking the management of striped bass seriously; in fact, the nation is concerned and interested. Second, striped bass stocks continue to decline, and third, human user groups will suffer a penalty in loss of harvest with any measures that are taken to improve the East Coast brood stocks. With these facts and history as a backdrop, let's see what the future might hold.

Hudson River Stock: Any discussion of striped bass management must include the Hudson River stocks for several reasons. First, it is the second largest stock; second, it is very healthy with respect to successful spawning; third, there is the question of PCB contamination; and fourth, that these Hudson fish filter mostly up the coast during their migration to impact the fisheries of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and perhaps beyond.

Spawning in the Hudson River has been rather good. Although biologists have not kept index numbers for Hudson bass for as long as they have the Chesapeake stock, a clear picture of rather healthy spawning is emerging. Index numbers for recent years are good:

1979	5.0
1982	+30.0
1983	48.0
1984	+37.0
1985	4.0

These data suggest both vitality and perhaps a pattern. Biologists are not terribly concerned about the 1985 low index number, but will be if several poor years pile up one after the other. However, there is reason to believe that a low spawning success every half-dozen years or so is typical for the Hudson stock.

There is more good news. The levels of PCBs (polychlorenated byphenols) is declining in the Hudson, presumably as a result of the ban on dumping the chemical some years ago. Less PCBs in the flesh of striped bass will make them safer to eat and may, according to some fisheries biologists, improve their spawning success.

We are also learning more about the Hudson stock's population dynamics and migratory habits as a result of the State's increased commitment to striped bass research and management, according to Byron Young, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) finfish biologist. "Based on work we are doing in the Long Island western Sound and south shore bays, we have seen many yearling striped bass." This suggests that Hudson striped bass migrate back and forth to the river from the first year on, unlike the Chesapeake fish which do not migrate for a good portion of their early life. However, the migration pattern changes with age according to Young. "As the fish get bigger they migrate farther and farther north, getting farther away from the Hudson. Some fish, in some years, go as far north as Maine." Mr. Young also discussed how larger Hudson bass may winter over in various places in Long Island Sound rather than migrate yearly back to the Hudson. This correlates nicely with what fishermen have casually observed for many years. In years of striped bass abundance we have received on and off reports of large fish taken in certain parts of the Sound by anglers during stretches of warm weather in January and February.

Mr. Young also pointed out that "there is evidence that some Hudson bass move south with the fall-migrating Chesapeake fish, and strong evidence that some Chesapeake fish remain in waters of Long Island Sound to winter over." Of course, the numbers of bass involved in each scenario is relatively small.

We asked Mr. Young about the survival of young of the year bass. Our question was motivated by the possibility that high index numbers might be misleading if there was a high mortality rate in the first and second year of life. Young pointed to shad net by-catch studies that show survival into later years is very good. He said thre is a strong correlation in the shad net data showing that 5 and 6 year old fish return to the river to spawn in large numbers. He reminded us that although the young bass go back and forth yearly between the Hudson and the saltwater, their first spawning run is in their fifth or sixth year.

Chesapeake Stock: There is continued and even growing concern over the viability of the Chesapeake stock. Index numbers continue to be low and 1985 was another very poor year. According to Gordon Colvin, DEC Director of Marine and Coastal Resources, New York, spawning success in the head of the bay, the traditional source of much of the brood stock, was virtually zero.

We asked Mr. Colvin about what he believed good bass management should be in light of the discouraging Chesapeake data. Colvin pointed out that the future is a little uncertain for several reasons. One reason is that the Studd's Act (the teeth of the legislation to manage striped bass) will expire in 1986. Most coastal fisheries managers are assuming that it will be re-authorized. If it is re-authorized, then all states will have to comply with the 33 inch amendment by 1987 or risk Federal intrusion in marine resources management. Since states are reluctant to have the Federal government intrude on what they consider states rights, it would appear unlikely that East Coast states will not comply. Realistically, this fact puts pressure on all East Coast states to take meaningful action. Thus, the Federal to states relationship with respect to such matters becomes a kind of self-feeding cycle.

That leaves the question of how states will react. The amendment requires 33 inches by 1987, and suggests that this size limit be achieved in 8 progressive steps. States do not have to go through 8 steps since they can take the plunge in one, two, or more steps. In New York, Mr. Colvin indicated the state will take action by regulation instead of new state legislation. He indicated that his office is preparing a series of alternatives for public comment. He indicated these alternatives will run the gamut from

"a do-nothing scenario" to a moratorium. He also indicated that DEC is looking into the possibility of holding public hearings on the alternatives. In any event, he expressly asked for comment from interested parties.

The desire for comment from users is echoed up and down the coast. Fisheries managers disagree on the best way to manage bass. Some would like to see a total closure of the fishery (a moratorium), some prefer to impose larger size limits, while still others indicate that a 33 inch limit is very restrictive and that at this time there is insufficient data to show that the stocks need a 33 inch limit. A consensus does emerge when you question managers about these alternatives. That is, most believe a combination of actions to be best and that we should take whatever action is necessary to manage the species even if that means a moratorium.

We asked Mr. Colvin about his own feelings on the 33 inch limit and the value of extending the closed season. "I think you can accomplish more with a closed season over time," he said, but also pointed out the difficulty involved with extending the present closed season. He indicated that if we were to extend the closure in the fall back into November, it would seriously affect the user groups, and might effectively eliminate some harvesters. He feels that isn't necessary at this time because there is a small surplus for harvest. On the other hand, if we extend the spring closure, the move wouldn't do much to reduce fishing mortality.

Given these inherent problems, Mr. Colvin suggested there would be value in testing a 26 to 30 inch limit to go along with what we have now. He said that other scenarios have been tested by computer modeling, but the 26 to 30 inch scheme has not.

Mr. Colvin also indicated that the ASMFC is about to begin rewriting the striped bass management plan. The reason is a need to make the plan more flexible in order to avoid the need for repetitive amendments. The rewrite will also consider the management of bass from minor contributing rivers such as the Hudson and the Roanoke; something the initial plan neglected to do.

We also asked about the large landings of striped bass in New York during the fall of 1985. He indicated that we shouldn't take this showing of fish as a sign that the coastal stock is healthy. The experience this fall in New York is atypical. Many observers have pointed out the same thing, pointing to warm water, unique wind patterns. bait distribution patterns, and a shift back to traditional close to shore migration habits for the good showing of bass last fall. One biologist said: "It would be wrong to take this good run of fish (fall '85) as a sign that the stocks have recovered. In fact, it was a freak and although enjoyed by many, must be considered unusual."

In discussing striped bass management with scientists we pressed our questioning of the extent to which management regulations should go to preserve the bass stocks. All agreed that we must do whatever is required to save the bass, even if that means shutting out users, and perhaps putting some commercial harvesters either temporarily or permanently out of business. One biologist put it this way: "We have a choice, if and when we need to take such drastic measures. We can say that the needs of human users supercedes the needs of the species, or that the species comes first. The results of these choices under such circumstances would be to lose the species if we allow continued harvests in the face of steep decline. In this scenario we ultimately lose the users, too. Thus, the second choice is the only choice because we get to keep both over the long haul."

We also asked managers about our current knowledge for the reasons of the decline. Dr. Goodyear, well-known striped bass researcher, has indicated he believes overharvesting to be the single most important reason for the decline of striped bass, while other scientists feel this view is too simplistic and express concern over acid rain, pesticide and herbicide pollutants in the Chesapeake system, changes in salinity and water flow because of development on the bay shore front in many locations, as well as overharvesting of successful year classes.

Party boat and charter boat skippers will be seriously affected by a 33 inch size limit and are asking for special considerations in future regulations.

Summary: The present state of bass management calls for 24 inches in the coastal ocean and 18 inches in the estuary. It calls for a closed season in northern states that carries from December to April. There is closure in Maryland and some restrictions on spawning reaches in key feeder areas in the Chesapeake system. There is a great deal of research that continues including computer modeling which allows scientists to get a preview of the effect of proposed management strategies. We have new knowledge about spawning, migration, and distribution that may be helpful in reducing mortality. Finally, there is an ASMFC amendment to the Striped Bass Management Plan that calls for 33 inch limit by 1987. Most states will be displaying for public comment management alternatives within a few months. In spite of the fact that these alternatives run the gamut of do-nothing to a total moratorium, few expect either the "do-nothing" scenario or the moratorium version to fly at this time. Finally, all managers are urging comment on the public record to proposed management alternatives with the understanding that significant action must be taken or run the risk of Federal intrusion into states' affairs.

★ FISHERMAN TRAVEL LOG ★

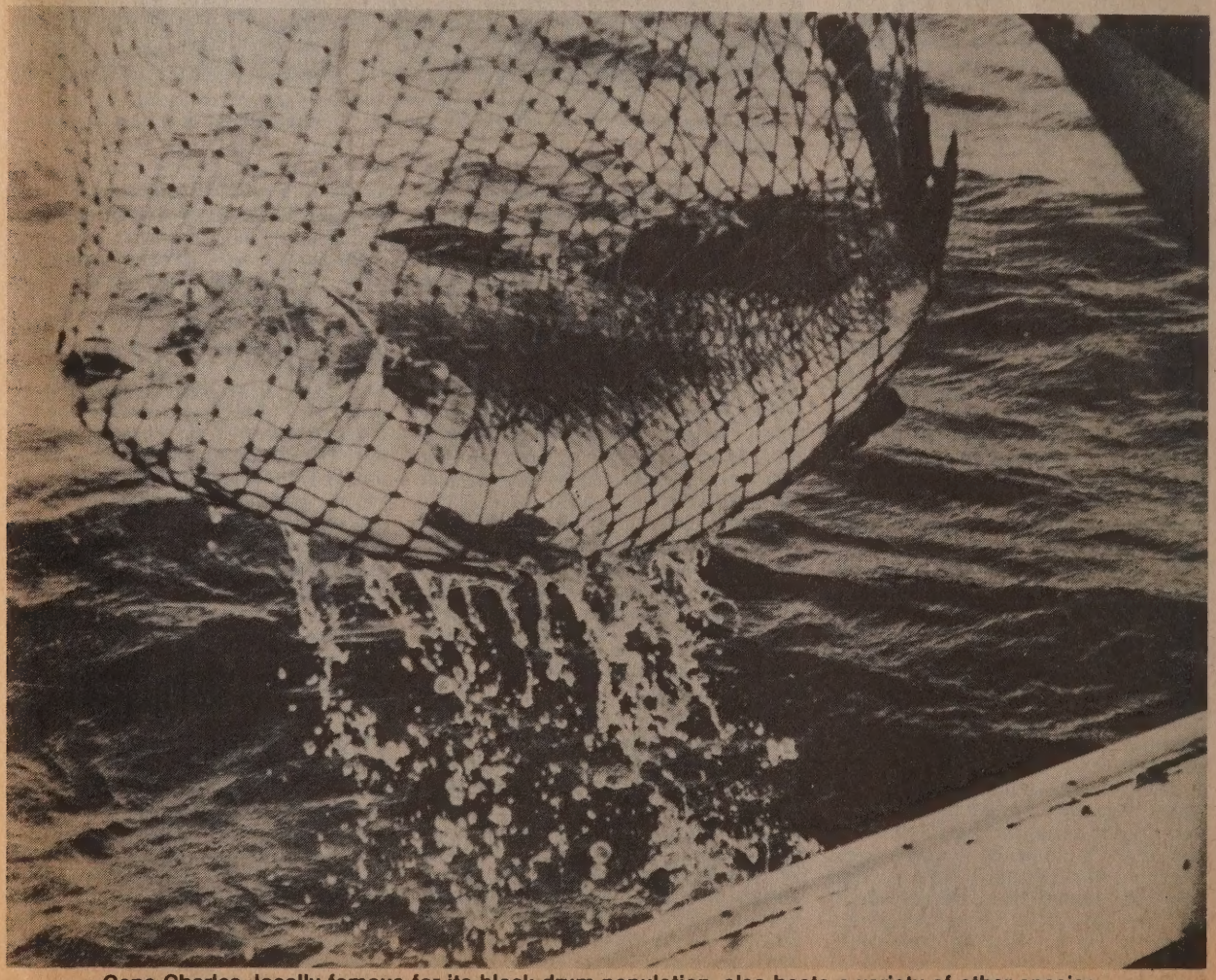
YEAR ROUND AT CAPE CHARLES

by Gary Diamond

'It's the dead of winter, but we still have fantastic fishing," said Captain Otis Asal of the charter boat *Bucaneer*, "When are you coming down?' It didn't take me long to make up my mind after being informed the party chartering Otis' boat the previous day had hooked up with nearly 100 tog that tipped the scales from 3 to 12 pounds. Within an hour, I had my 18 footer hitched to the back of the pick-up truck, tackle loaded and was headed south on U.S. 13 towards Virginia.

The 4½ hour drive from my home just north of Baltimore was uneventful other than a few deer dashing across the highway—something that always seems to get your attention when trailering a boat. A quick stop along the way to refill the thermos with fresh coffee only heightened my anticipation of the upcoming events of the day. I figured there were a whole lot of big tog with my name on them and the only thing that would stop me from putting them in the cooler would be a hurricane.

Cape Charles, Virginia, a sleepy village located on the lower end of the DelMarVa Peninsula, plays host to thousands of visiting anglers every year. Although the majority of the non-resident fishermen are seeking huge black drum during the spring run, word has leaked out about the fantastic fishing that takes place here during the remainder of the year. Nearly every species of fish inhabiting the Atlantic, passes through



Cape Charles, locally famous for its black drum population, also hosts a variety of other species.

the area and makes a brief stopover in these fertile waters.

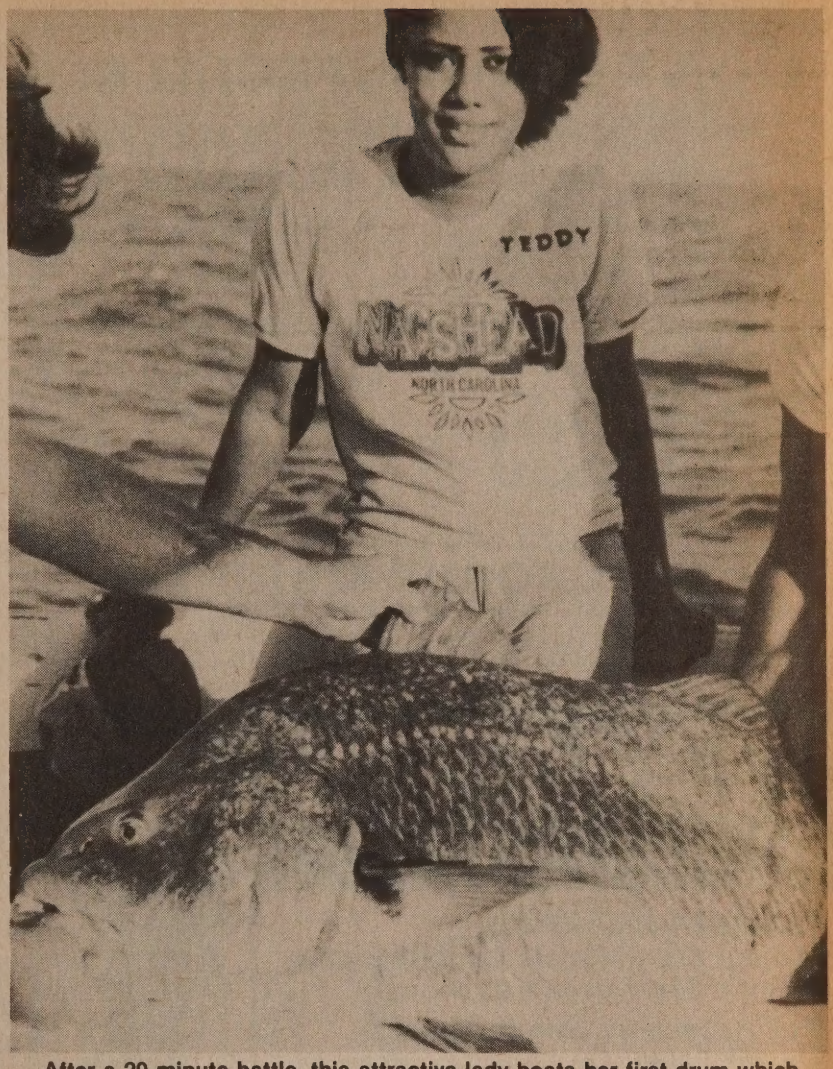
Considering that most of us are fair weather fishermen and don't enjoy battling the elements in order to pursue our sport, the fishing season essentially runs from mid-April until early December. This gives you about nine months to enjoy the vast variety of fish that inhabit the area.

Due to the warming effects of the nearby ocean, spring arrives far earlier at Cape Charles than most of the inland areas. Mid-April is usually the time of year when huge black drum begin to migrate into the mouth of the Chesapeake. These slow moving bottom feeders offer lots of action to avid, early season anglers looking for big fish. Averaging over 50 lbs., black drum congregate in deep water troughs where they feed exclusively on small crustaceans and clams. On any given day, you'll see fleets of small boats on the distant horizon fishing the more productive spots along the main shipping channel. Although I've never heard the sounds, veteran drum anglers claim they can tell when black drum are in the area by the grunting noises they make when feeding. In fact, some say they don't need a depth finder to locate them; they simply drift around until they hear them. However, when you do spot drum on the recorder, they stack up like cordwood as they frequently school tightly in small areas.

The most productive bait for black drum is the sea clam. Rigged on a fish finder rig with six to ten ounces of lead and an 8/0 beak hook, the clam belly is drifted back to the waiting fish from an anchored boat. Then it's a waiting game. When these bottom dwellers decide to hit, they merely inhale the bait and swim off for parts unknown. No head shaking, drag screaming runs—drum just swim away and break your line. But, that's drum fishing.

If the drum are not cooperative, which is sometimes the case, there's always the blues. Often while waiting for the tide to get right, anglers will cast large surface plugs to the marauding schools of blues that frequent the Cape Charles area during April and May. Local fishermen and charter captains alike consider the blues trash fish; however, visitors such as myself enjoy blasting these fish on light tackle as they churn the surface to a foam.

Averaging about 15 lbs., the blues are still skinny from their long trek in from the offshore waters. These early arrivals will feed heavily on the massive schools of menhaden close to shore. Light tackle anglers can take advantage of the situation by working the small coves and cuts near Fisherman's Island National Wildlife Refuge with surface plugs. Medium action spinning or bait casting outfits seem to work best when coupled with a high speed reel. The lures must be screaming across the surface to get the blues attention. Apparently, the action imitates a fleeing baitfish and if there was ever something that "ticked-off" a blue it's an escaping bunker.



After a 20 minute battle, this attractive lady boats her first drum which tipped the scales at 55 pounds.

Fly rod buffs can get in on the bluefish action by casting large streamers and poppers in the shallows. The blues seem to congregate here during high tide and they'll hit like a freight train. When these fish are hooked in less than four feet of water they become a completely different animal. Spectacular leaps, drag burning runs and head shaking, bulldog battles are what you can expect on nearly every cast.

It takes a pretty beefy fly rod to throw those large streamers and popping bugs; therefore, fly line weights should be at least size 10 or better. A four foot length of 12 lb. mono attached to 12 inches of steel makes up the leader, but don't be surprised if one of those highly aggressive blues chops it in half. Most of the larger single action fly reels will handle these fish if sufficiently backed with 100 or more yards of 20 lb. dacron. However, if you want to avoid the bruised knuckle syndrome from a "ticked-off" fish tearing line out at incredible speeds, use a fly reel with a positive anti-reverse. They may be somewhat heavier, but they'll save you a lot of grief and bleeding knuckles.

The best time to hit these blues is during the outgoing tide. They seem far more aggressive when the water is getting thinner in the shallow flats. It almost seems as if they want to get that last morsel of bait before heading back to deep water. However, you can also catch the toothsome choppers in deep water using the same methods. As the season progresses, the blues really get feisty and don't pay attention to the rules of fishing. Slack, ebb or incoming tides, cloudy or sunny days, high or low winds—it doesn't make a bit of difference when the choppers are on the prowl. In fact, I've seen them push the menhaden to the surface, force them into tight schools and rip through them like tuna balling and busting mullet offshore. It's a breathtaking sight you'll not soon forget. The water becomes nervous and then explodes with a force resembling a grenade hitting

(Continued on next page.)

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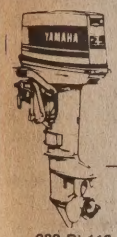

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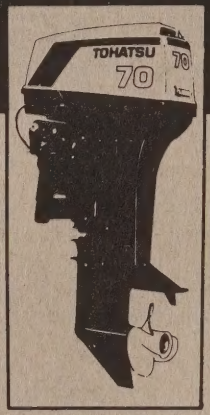

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the water. Baitfish leap for their lives, but to no avail—the blues always win in the end.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares my love for the aggressive blues, thus, these anglers will often pursue the prolific sea trout that inhabit the Cape Charles area throughout the summer months. Beginning in late May or early June, huge weakfish invade the deep waters adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The first arrivals are usually 8 to 12 pounders which will readily slam a bucktail trimmed with a squid strip or a chunk of peeler crab. As soon as the water temperature hits 70 degrees, the larger trout are replaced with spikes of one or two pounds. The smaller fish are usually found congregating at the inshore wrecks and rock piles which are abundant at the mouth of the Chesapeake. Mixed with the trout are hordes of croaker, spot, flounder and snapper blues. The wrecks are a bottom fisherman's paradise. Standard top and bottom rigs held in place with 4 to 6 ounces of lead and baited with squid strips or cut menhaden are extremely effective on these fish.

Although the majority of the local anglers seem to prefer bottom fishing for panfish, some charter captains move their boats around the Cape to fish the offshore waters for pelagic species. Just 21 miles out from the inlet at Oyster, Virginia, lies a vast upriising called "The Hill." Baitfish concentrate along the edge of the drop-offs and marauding schools of yellowfin, bluefin and skipjack tuna migrate to the area during the months of June and July. If the weather conditions are good, small boaters can take advantage of some of the best big game fishing in the DelMarVa region.

Traditional skip baits such as cedar plugs in red/white and red/yellow combinations are the preferred lures for the tuna. In addition, feathers and large bucktails trolled close to the edge of the wake seem to work well when the cedar isn't productive. Although you'll occasionally see the fish working the surface, the best indication the tuna are in the area is to look for the tiny chicken birds circling on the horizon. More often than not, you'll hook up with some 50 to 80 pound yellowfin right under the birds.

Just a few miles out from the hill is the edge of the canyons. Both blue and white marlin are abundant here and make up the bulk of the fishing. However, you should be prepared for the unexpected. Cobia, amberjack, sharks, king mackerel and other tough fighting gamesters at one time or another inhabit this area. In fact, some of the largest sharks taken along the Eastern Seaboard have been caught along the edge of the Continental Shelf at Cape Charles.

Unfortunately, most of us don't own boats that are capable of taking on the rough weather conditions that often occurs with offshore fishing. Therefore, those individuals usually will fish a bit closer to shore. But at

Cape Charles, this could mean you'll be fishing for one of the most sought after game fish in the world: tarpon. Throughout the months of July and August, when the water temperatures often climb into the upper 70s, the silver giants migrate to the inshore waters behind the barrier islands of Virginia. Although these fish can be taken on artificials, most local anglers prefer using a whole, Norfolk spot, fished on a fish finder rig. As with most species, the most productive times to catch tarpon are during the outgoing tide. As the fish move through the unmarked inlets, they feed on small baitfish that inhabit the vast tidal marsh that stretches from Cobb Island to Cape Henry.

There's no fish quite like a tarpon hooked in shallow water. Although hook-ups are not frequent as they are in more southerly waters, one tarpon at the end of your line usually results in the angler being hooked for life. Within seconds, the fish is airborne. With head-shaking leaps, flared gills and exciting runs, the 100 pound plus tarpon will put up a battle that will cause grown men to cry when it's over.

However, tarpon don't always cooperate when you want them to; therefore, you'll have to pass the time by fishing for other species. Dusky sharks, black tips or spinners and sand tigers are always eager to hit a bait fish drifted with the tide. Yes, they inhabit those same unmarked inlets where you're proteced from most wind conditions. You'll also encounter some good sized flounder, kingfish, sea bass, porgies and sea trout in the same areas. Squid strips fished on a top and bottom rig seem to produce the better catches of these fish.

When autumn finally arrives at Cape Charles, the charter fleet will move back around Cape Henry to the mouth of the Chesapeake where they'll fish for channel bass or red drum as they are called locally. Again, the wrecks are highly productive and some fantastic catches are made just a mile from shore. The first order of business when fishing for the reds is to catch some fresh bait. Norfolk spot are usually preferred by the charter captains and the shallow waters closer to shore hold all the spot and croaker you can handle. Light tackle rigged with a top and bottom rig and baited with bloodworms will fill the bait bucket in no time at all. The best part about catching the bait is many of the spot and croaker are jumbos, which ultimately means they'll end up on the dinner table.

Usually, when conditions are right, you can expect to see the rod take a deep bend within the first 15 minutes. Then dig your heels into the deck; reds put up one heck of a battle. If you're lucky and the drum doesn't head for the nearest chunk of structure, you'll have a good chance of putting it in the boat. Although you can expect to hook up with a half dozen reds on a single trip, charter captains are now imposing a limit on these gamesters in order to preserve the fishery. The drum will remain in the area until sometime in late Ocober or until the first cold snap hits.

From November through May, the tog fishing at Cape Charles is outstanding. Nearly every rock pile, wreck, mussel bed and inshore lump holds good concentrations of blackfish. These tasty bottom feeders often reach weights of 12 to 14 pounds at the mouth of the Chesapeake, but you'll find the average fish tips the scales at about 6 pounds. Chunks of fresh, hard shell crab are the most productive baits. However, if you have access to sand fleas and a way of keeping them alive, you'll catch all the tog you can handle. A good second choice is tiny immature crabs hooked up on a top and bottom rig.

Only severe weather conditions will prevent you from fishing the fertile waters of Cape Charles. Like I said at the onset, only a hurricane would have prevented me from going after those fantastic tog inhabiting the inshore wrecks. Four hours of fishing put two dozen tog, one 30 lb. shark and nearly all the large croaker the 86 quart coolers could handle. When the winds picked up from the southwest, I headed my 18 footer back to the launch ramp and bid farewell till next spring to the best fishing on the DelMarVa Peninsula.

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SPINNING "WORM ROD"

by George Sanderson

Stop in a well-stocked tackle shop that caters to freshwater fishermen and tell them you are going after largemouth bass with artificial worms. Let them know you need a good "worm" rod. You might also want to mention that the rod you are looking for must be light, sensitive and have plenty of backbone. Odds are they'll show you a graphite or boron baitcasting rod. This is fine if you prefer this type of tackle—but what if you are more adept with spinning tackle?

The easiest solution is to build a custom spinning rod with the basic attributes of a good baitcasting "worm" rod. As a quick review, let's go over the essentials of a rod capable of taking fish with artificial worms.

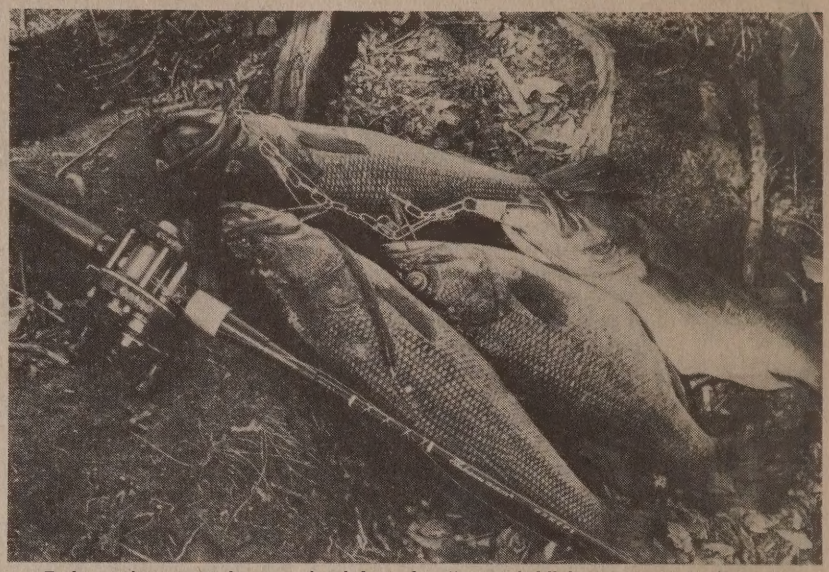
Lightness: Light weight (and balance) are extremely important as you really have to work a worm to make it produce. You don't want a rod that will have you so tired from casting that the often subtle pick-up of a bass will go undetected.

Sensitivity: Being able to feel the worm as it crawls along the bottom, slips up and over stumps, slithers around lily pads, etc., is the key to catching fish on this highly productive lure. Boron or graphite are the only way to go when it comes to asembling a rod of this type.

Backbone: Backbone (stiffness) is inherent in boron or graphite blanks. It is also a mandatory trait of a good worm rod. When you attempt to set the hook you want a rod that will drive the point into the jaw of the fish, not one that will just bend over and die.

The rod that I am going to discuss in this article is one I built for a friend of mine, Rich Uznanski. Rich is an accomplished bass fisherman; just ask him. He's quite proud to point out the "over 7 lber." he took from a hard fished lake in 1983. He also has many other big bass to his credit. Rich releases almost all the bass he catches. He's taught me quite a bit about freshwater fishing.

If you saw Rich's collection of tackle you would immediately realize that he goes top shelf all the way. When he told me about the components he had ordered to build his new spinning rod, it was obvious that no expense was spared. Let's go over the components for this super-sensitive spinning rod.



Baitcasting gear is standard fare for "wormin'," but some anglers are more adept with spinning.

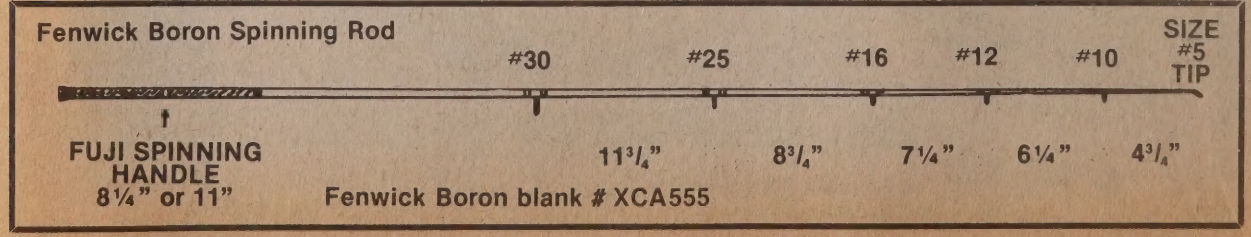
A Fenwick Boron casting blank (XCA555) is the heart of the rod. Yes, you read it right. A casting blank. This blank, being boron, is the ultimate in sensitivity. A casting blank was chosen to get the needed backbone that I spoke of earlier in the article. The blank itself is not very long, so a special handle assembly had to be used.

Rich chose a Fuji spinning handle. These handles are strong, fairly light in weight and very comfortable. They come in two sizes and Rich decided to use the 11 inch one. Check out a catalog or your local supply house and pick up the right size adapter to mate the blank to the seat (handle). It takes only a few minutes to glue together the entire assembly. Give the epoxy a little time to set up and you're ready to wrap on the guides.

Rich selected the Fuji Hardaloy single foot guides for his new bass rod. They are, like all Fuji products, a quality item. Strong, light and almost friction free. You could step up to the Fuji SIC guides (they are Fuji's top of the line offering), but it really isn't necessary on a rod of this type. I wrapped the Hardaloys directly onto the blank (no underwrap) with a size A thread.

A lot of custom rod builders feel that eliminating the underwrap will add to the sensitivity of a boron or graphite bait casting or spinning rod. Use a tiptop that matches up with the guides you choose. See the diagram for guide size and spacing.

After the epoxy dries, you'll have a real special rod. When the season arrives you'll be ready to tempt a big bass with an artificial worm. Light weight, sensitivity and backbone—this spinning rod has it all.



FEBRUARY FISH NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

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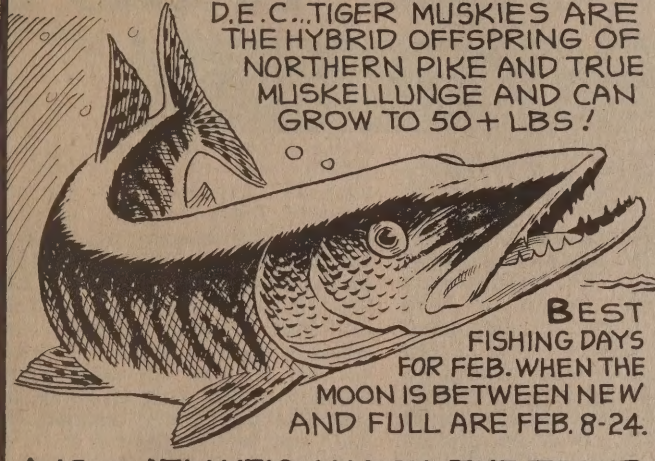

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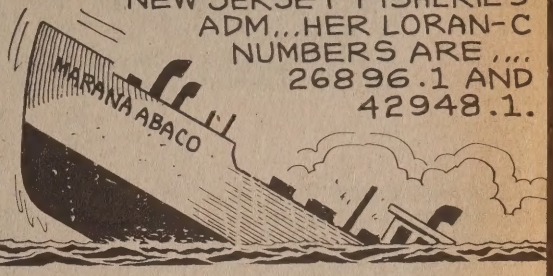

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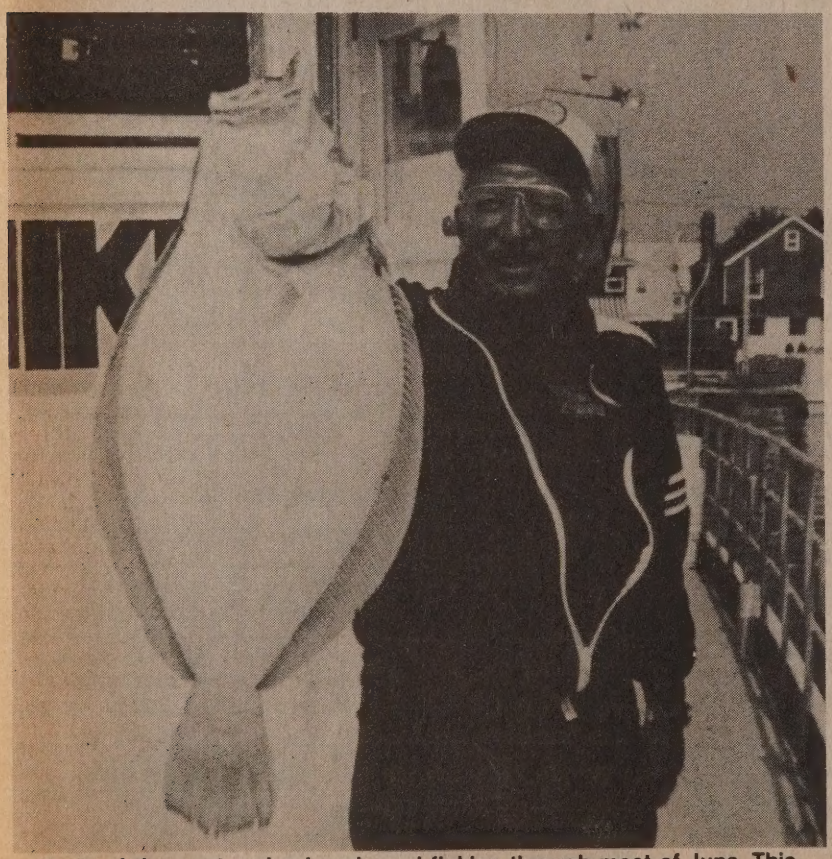
SOUTH SHORE WEST

Including New York Bight

by Stu Miller

January 1985 started with good to excellent numbers of cod taken on local and offshore wrecks, results depending on the day. Weather held nicely at the start. Rougher weather and conditions moved in, but numbers and sizes of fish held. Dogs on open bottom. Action turned to fair as more weather and cold Canadian air moved in. Wind and rain for the balance of the month didn't give the fish lockjaw and decent catches were made on wrecks. Many cod were in the upper 40s. The Capt. Al had 275 cod one day. Fish are averaging 10 to 15 lbs. On Sheepshead Bay's Betty W II, one early month trip had 200 cod to 51½ lbs., all fish 9 lbs. and up. A 44 lber. was hung by Russ "Flounder Belly" Brown of Massapequa. A 12 lb. blackfish fell to Larry McCall on the Starstream II. A few pollock were picked and sacks of whiting were caught at Ambrose. As the month wore on there were still lots of fish around, but good weather was needed in which to get people to come and catch 'em. The wind and cold lasted through January, but decent catches continued. Fish now ran 10 to 18 lbs., with 30 lb. pool winners. Paul Saren of Flushing bagged a 47 lb. cod on the Starstream II. Bill Beckmann, Jr. and son hoisted 22 cod to 25 lbs. on one trip.

February marked the start of solid whiting fishing out of Sheepshead Bay; big fish, too. Cod started fair to good for the Freeport cod fleet, all banging wrecks. The weather soon turned cold and windy, but cod were taken on the days the packets could sail. Rain replaced the severe cold and with the wind, catches were down but not out, on the trips sailed. Catches on cod went to a pick and even the commercial setliners had just a few fish or stayed at the dock. The flounder boats started getting ready for their season, soon to start. As the month unfolded, cod began to run 18 to 20 lbers. with 20 to 30 lb. pool fish. Doggies were on open bottom and some on the wrecks, too. Loads of herring around, with the cod loving every bite. Cod also now in mid-water depths. Two hours of red hot codding aboard the Capt. Al saw 15 fares hoist 120 cod. A 64 lber. was caught on the Starstream II by Staten Island angler Frank Noto. Sizes soon reduced themselves to 8 to 15 lb. averages on the wrecks, rocks and mussel beds, with the cod full of herring. Super whiting action for the Sheepshead Bay fleet working Ambrose and the BA area. Lots of 20 to 30 lb. cod being caught on the wrecks. Super Spray II had fares that caught 60 cod in the first hour of the first drop on one trip to an offshore wreck. As February wore on, Helmut Faengler of Manhattan took a 54 lber. on Starstream II. Cod continue 8 to 15 lbs. and whiting catches slide due to stormy conditions. The residual heave from the storms are putting the action down some at the end of the month, but there were still mixed fish to 20 lbs. with a 47½ lber on the Super Spray II. Some flounder started in Baldwin Bay and Bay Park. White perch taken in the back bays on grass shrimp and whiting closed on the slow side to the west.



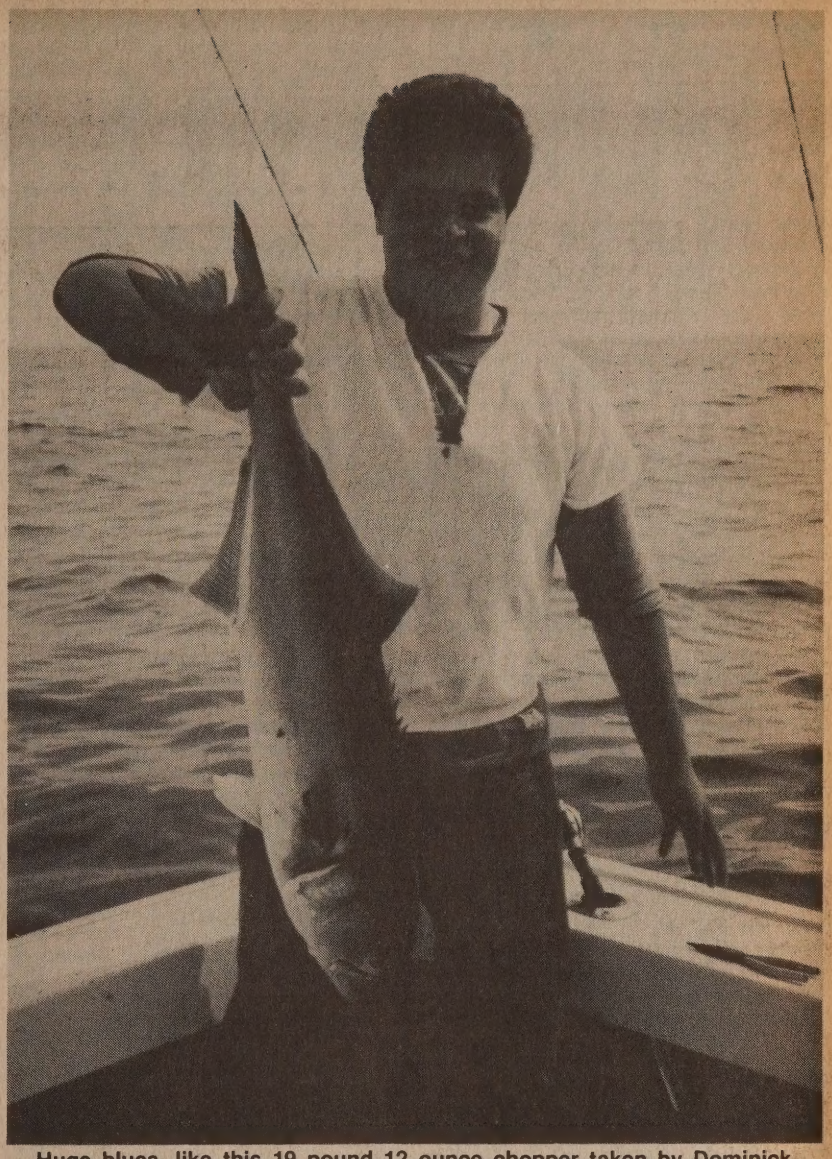
Parts of the west end enjoyed good fluking through most of June. This 9½ pounder earned B. Levine a first place tie in the party boat division of the New York Harbor Festival. It was caught aboard the Capt. Mike on June 29th.

March. The month of St. Patrick started picky to fair on flounder, many fish loaded with roe. Party boats picked away at wreck based cod, while some sharpies on private boats took cod while at anchor on open bottom. As the water warmed, flounder catches became better inside while codfishermen continued their fair catches on wrecks and open bottom. The third week of the month saw excellent floundering all over the bay, with good sizes as well. The cold and wind sneaked in once more, but

the cod/flounder momentum couldn't be stopped. The flatties started hitting in the deeper holes up to 50 a boat. All the usual hotspot and areas produced very nicely. Cod continued in the 8 to 15 lb. range, in fair numbers on wrecks, pools in the low 30s. Flounder mostly keepers. By mid-month whiting is history. Very large flatties at Squaw Island. Open boats loading up on flounder in the bays. Cod boats getting 8 to 12 lb. cod at every drop. Pools in the 20s. High hooks now 4 to 5 per man. Cod being taken by some private boats in 105 to 110 feet of water on open bottom, anchored and chumming. Flounder action hot all over the place, from the Wantagh bridges to the Jersey Coast. Reynold's Channel is really red hot. Chumming is a must for big catches. The Capt. Mike has leap jobs at the Silver Hole area. Squaw is at its best in 20 years, says Capt. Al Lindroth. R. Rogers hoists 53 and 68 on one weekend. Buoys 17 and 19 in Reynolds are hot. A true 3 lber. is caught on the Commodore.

April. Larger but fewer flounder as April opens. Rental skiffs getting an average of 40 good fish per boat. Great Channel hot; 126 for three pals fishing there. Party boats loading up from Seaford to Sheepshead Bay. School cod and some big pollack on Starstream II. Private boats continue bagging open bottom cod at anchor in 105 to 110 feet of water. Winds and moon tide tried to louse things up, but the fish were there and they obliged. Fishing was up and down, depending on conditions. Mackerel opened up at Manasquan Ridge on the Jersey side. Blacks start to take off at the jetties and wrecks, with macks closing the month strong from the J.I. Buoy to Jersey. Cod to 45 lbs. on Starstream II. A 51 lber. for Tony Moia of Brooklyn and a 35 lb. pollock for Rossendro Torres of Patterson, NJ. Also hake to 20 lbs. and jumbo blacks. Frank and Carmine bailed 82 and 94 good flatties in two trips out of Ed's Fishing Sta. Blacks on the offshore wrecks. Lots of small herring in the bay. Party and private boats loading up on flounder all over the bays at mid month. By the third week of the month, blacks started at Meadowbrook Bridge. Mixed school cod and blacks on the wrecks. The Betty W. III gets solid macks at Mannasquan. Last week of April saw continued strong flounder. Bigger flatties in the shoals. Macks were off Jones in 60 feet of water. Starstream II loads up on macks. Some slow days, however. Super wreck blackfishing; 19 blacks to 8 lbs. for Eric Jung on the Silver Pt. jetty on fiddlers and clam. A 40 lb. cod for John Weurfel. Macks galore out of Sheepshead.

May. Flounder now became a fairly reliable item, except for occasional off days here and there. Sizes ran from good to exceptional. There were good shots of macks south and southeast of Jones to 3 lbs., plus schools of tinkers. Blacks appeared at the local bridges, while inshore wrecks yielded blacks and sea bass. It was wind and rain that put a damper on the flounder action to some degree the second week of May, but there were still enough fishable days to permit good to fair catches. Blackfishing became strong at local bridges and wrecks, while macks continued to bite nicely not far offshore, with herring and whiting mixed in. Mixed fluke gradually started to be caught. The third week of the month had absolutely super floundering with sizes continuing to astound. Blackfishing stayed great at the bridges and local wrecks. Fluking was now on the build, with a 50 percent keeper ratio. The season's first blues, fish up to 6 lbs., were jigged, trolled and baited. The following week saw red hot flounder activity, but the weekend was a mess of wind, weather and tide. Fluke was strong in Reynolds. Blacks continued fair to good at the bridges while scattered catches of weaks, blues and blowfish were taken. May ended with the fishing breaking wide open with plenty of action on several species, people catching like crazy over a three day weekend with wall to wall sunshine. Blues made a strong showing and fluking was good—very good. Flounder continued strong. The first blue shark of the year was caught and blueclaw crabs started. Blacks to 8 lbs. at the Big M at slack. Flounder super all over the place, so hot that on the Capt. Lou III, two regulars had one day catches of 212 and 185 good flatties. Good sea bass and blacks aboard Starstream, which switched from macks to ocean bottom. Loads of whiting at Ambrose, blues out of Sheepshead Bay plus super ocean bottom hauls of a giant ling, sea bass and blackfish.



Huge blues, like this 19 pound 12 ounce chopper taken by Dominick Loguzzo, entertained anglers through October at 17 Fathoms.

June began with good catches of fluke, flounder and blues. Flounder were mostly very good sized, while fluke have had a high keeper ratio. Blues have run from cocktails to teen

(Continued on next page.)

size, depending on how far you want to run off the beach for them. The bays were a mob scene on the month's first weekend. Soon, the area was armpit deep in bluefish, with choppers to 15 lbs. This was extremely early for this heavy and steady a concentration of blues, but there was no sign of any let up. Fluking continued to be very strong most days. Flounder continued to please in the deeper holes, particularly around the bridges crossing Sloop Channel. Some 5 to 9 lb. weaks were taken on sandworms and sharks started to show up more often in our reports. We got some more wind and rain and warming weather. All fishing stayed strong except for a few off-days due to conditions. Shark catches built even more, while bluefish were being caught any way you chose and the flounder and fluke provided plenty of activity and meals. Bueclaw crabs made cameo appearances here and there. For the last week of the month, the fluking was off in some areas and held strong in others, namely Sheepshead Bay. Very good catches of flounder filled in the gaps where the fluke pickings were slim. Day and night blues were mostly productive, with a few slow trips here and there due to conditions and weather. Crabs slowed a bit and some blowfish were caught. Some very good mako shark catches were brought in.

July. Although starting off with wind and rain (what else?), July bluefishing stayed good to excellent on both the day and night trips, while fluking was on the picky to fair side. Flounder, the good ol' standby, was a faithful bail-out in the deeper, thus cooler holes. Activity offshore consisted of bigeye and yellowfin tuna at the Hudson Canyon, kicking off the bluewater action. Blueclaw crabs were hot in some areas, non-existent in others. Stripers and weakfish made a showing. Further into the month the bluefishing continued dynamite for jiggers, trollers and chummers. Fluking was good during the week but died for the weekend, the reasons being known only to the fluke themselves. Fluke taken were mostly keepers, and big chunky flounder filled in at the deeper holes. Good numbers of mako shark were caught and yellowfin tuna action became somewhat dependable. By the third week of the month, the blues continued spectacular and consistent on virtually all day and night runs by the headboats, while private boatmen loaded up jigging and trolling. Fluking, to a large degree was in the doldrums, with just a few fair catches made. Flounder kept filling the voids in fine fashion in numbers and sizes. Small snappers are starting to be caught along with sand porgies and small blacks. By the end of July, decent fluking returned to the area at last. Flounder numbers continued, but sizes diminished a bit. Blues continued excellent to fair, depending on the day. Blueclaws spotty, as before and the snappers are slow to build. Fair to good on the tunas from the Tower to the Canyon.

August kicked off with fluke bouncing back on some days and becoming picky on others. The day and night blues became fair to excellent, still with some picky trips, however. Fish ran 2 to 8 lbs. Flounder catches were of slightly smaller but FAT suckers, but only at certain stages of the tide, with the ebb a total bummer. Offshore shark, tuna and marlin action has been spotty. Fishing got more consistent as the month wore on, with new shots of fish entering Jones Inlet. Blues continue slightly erratic, with catches ranging from picky to spectacular, depending on the day, place and boat with trollers doing the poorest. Offshore continued a pick. Snappers and blueclaws began building very fast. Some weaks and stripers being caught in the bay by live-liners and chunkers. By mid-month the best bet was the consistent bluefishing. There was also a moderate upsurge in the local fluking. The area still seems to be in the clutches of green or brown algae in the water, on many days reaching many, many miles offshore. Some days it extended out to the Canyon. Blue water action remained off its feed, but the kids continue to zap loads of snappers. BCCs continue to please in many areas, but not all. Flounder are either kaput or good though smaller, depending on who you're talking to. Toward the end of the month, blues and fluke had their ups and downs, according to tide and where you fished. Flounder just about ceased as a worthwhile target. Offshore, the green tide really put a dent in things. A totally gloomy picture wasn't the actuality, however, with some excellent catches made on both fluke and blues, with a couple of giant weaks thrown in. Crabs and snappers very active. The month wound up with a "strange" week of fishing, really hot and cold, up and down, with occasional hot action inshore on blues and an optimistic turn in Canyon efforts. Much of the water in the area continued to be loaded with green algae, which is probably contributing to anglers' agita. Snappers and BCCs have become a mainstay, while decent mixed bags of flounder, sand porgies and pin bass are being taken around the bridges. Fluking stayed picky but with some good catches made here and there.

September. As we move into the fall, fluke and blues continued to be spotty, hot and cold, etc. However, no real numbers of skunk flags have been flown, just that some days were better than others. Flounder picked up again, being added to catches of sand porgies, pin bass and blacks. There was some super bluefishing. Offshore, however, remained very slow. Claws and snaps stayed hot. The second week of the month saw better fluking, with fish larger than previously. Fall flounder picked up smartly with by-catches of sand porgies, pin bass and blacks. Blues ran fair to super-great, depending on the day and area. Some real animal blues taking pools, but smaller blues in greater abundance. Snappers and BCCs held right in there. The offshore scene remained muted, as not many boats have sailed, seemingly waiting for something to open up. The following week had a strong blow from the northwest with accompanying dropping temperatures which cooled local waters and blew away a lot of the green and red algae blooms that plagued us all summer long. As a result, Canyon action became somewhat hot for bigeye and yellowfin tunas. Bluefishing remained excellent most days, but the fluke was now about shot. Flounder action was quite satisfactory all week. Snappers, pin bass, sand porgies and blacks stayed strong inside. September wound up with good mixed bag fishing inside, while blues continued strong offshore, with bonito and albacore mixed in. Sharp skippers working the Canyon made solid catches of bigeye and yellowfin. Inside snappers were huge and the flounder remained excellent most of the week. Blackfish were excellent at the bridges and the bay bottom was paved with pin bass and sand porgies.

October. Through Thursday, offshore bluefishing and mixed bag catches inside were quite solid. Then Hurricane Gloria struck Friday, completely killing that day. Action bounced back some on Saturday and even more so on Sunday, even though the water was churned up. Sunday saw very good bluefish catches, mainly at 17 Fathoms, the biggest kind of blues, up to 22 lbs. on bait. Bay floundering picked up nicely with pin bass and small porgies mixed in, while blackfishing at all the bridges was very good. The following week carried the after effects of Gloria with a heave and Victory at Sea conditions. Blues scattered to a large extent. Even so, small blues to alligators were caught from Cholera to the 3 Sisters and to 17 Fathoms. Bay action ranged from poor to fair, depending in the day, with mixed bags of flounder, porgies, sea bass, blows and kingfish. Later in October, things picked up again, with blues consistent, with most action in the daylight now and most fish teen-sized into the low 20s. The Bacardi area has been alive with mixed bluefin and yellowfin tuna. A big sword was bagged at the Canyon and inside, good mixed bags hung in. The next week's hottest item was the super-jumbo bluefishing, all fish 12 to 22 lbs., best on bait at Cholera and 17 Fathoms. Numbers ranged from a pick to a slaughter. Flounder were slow to good. Weaks and stripers were taken by trollers working off the beaches in 20 to 40 feet of water, while the bridges and rocky areas and wrecks have produced tremendous catches of blackfish. The month's windup had good to excellent bluefishing, all the biggest kind, to 22 lbs. Flatties stayed picky to

good, but mostly picky, Wantagh area best. The Bacardi stayed hot for tunas and the blacks remained very hot and big at the bridges, rocks and jetties.

November. This action continued nicely on blues and flounder a few days into November, and then the area got battered by storms and steady east winds that made mountains of the seas and a mess of the bay bottom. Outside, some dogs were caught, sometimes a few and sometimes a lot, the harbingers of cooling waters and the winter codfishing. By the next week, when boats could get out, blues continued to go wild over anything they thought might be a meal, still running huge. All methods caught. Cholera and 17 Fathoms continued to be hotspots. The water was still warm and it looked like there was no end to the blues. Flatties slowed, with most catches just a pick. Things were very quiet offshore. Deeper into November, with some wind and rain, codfishing kicked off for the winter season with various inshore and distant wrecks providing decent catches of cod (along with doggies). Pools were in the 25 to 30 lb. range. Flounder remained picky to fair, but the blackfish continued very good at bridges, rocky areas and the jetties. Cholera has great blackfishing, to name one area. Some legal stripers were caught inside and along the beaches by umbrella and tube types. The month wound up with good catches of cod to 30 lbs. at the deep water wrecks, while flatties continued spotty to fair. Ripping moon tides hurt catches to some degree. Blackfish action delcined some but the monster blues continued to make their presence known along the beaches for trollers and diamond jiggers. At the wrecks there were mixed bags of blues, cod, blacks, sea bass, all fighting for the clam baits.

December. The final month of '85 started off undistinguished fishing-wise. With the water still amazingly warm for this time of year, along with the week's wind and rain, the inshore and offshore action was picky to fair, with the best news being on the cod scene. Cod party boats, when getting out, had up to 60 fish a trip, 10 to 15 lbers. average, with pools in the 30s. The next week's fishing was a "3" on a scale of 1 to 10. Cod was picky, though laced with a few brutes in the 40s. Flounder catches were fair at best with Reynolds best, for the few boats still at it. Big blues still around, but no one really pursuing them, though these were the biggest kind of choppers. By mid-month cod became the only game in town, with only a few "pounders" trying to coax up the flatties in the wind and cold. The cod catches were moderate in numbers, but their sizes were large. The blues finally petered out and now the blackfishing turned truly excellent with large blacks on the wrecks and rocks.

And so—another year of fishing is history. May you all enjoy good health in '86 and we'll see you out on the water.

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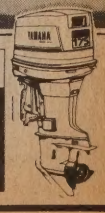


OF SHORT FLUKE AND BATHTUB GIN

by Matt Ahern

There are few fishermen among us who have not been discouraged by the amount of short fluke we've been catching these past few years. I can recall fluke trips when shorts were all I caught. Evidently I'm not alone, for I've been hearing from many disgruntled fishermen.

Not only do a majority of the letters I receive voice this complaint, but as the season heats up and the shorts become more numerous, the old telephone on the wall does become insistent in its ringing. There is nothing so sad as the fisherman who spends a goodly amount to catch a few fish and then by law must return them as quickly as possible. No ifs, ands, or buts permitted.

Those fishermen who get in touch offer many suggestions to remedy the situation. These range from allowing a certain number of shorts to be possessed on each trip, say six, to lowering the lengal length from 14 inches to 13—even 12 has been suggested. If this were done, claim these fishermen, most of us would be happy enough. Sounds good on the surface. No question about it. But in my estimation, it really isn't doing the fish much good.

You and I know that should the law retain its 14 inch decree and yet allow us to have in our possession six 12 inch shorts, let's say, the instant a 13 incher is decked, one of those previously caught smaller fluke is going overboard. This, of course, isn't too bad if the fish is alive when tossed back, but if it is dead, the law's purpose, which is to increase the fluke population by getting at least one spawning from these fish (and not to harass fishermen as some contend), then becomes defeated in its effort to help all.

As for reducing the legal length to 13 inches, it would take only the passage of a year or two before these same fishermen would demand a further reduction—simply because most fluke they'd catch would be less than 13 inches. Again the nature of the law would be defeated.

I believe the law as it stands today is a good law—as tough as it may be to take sometimes. Methinks that it is better to devote our energies to enforcing the law and enhance our efforts to encourage each fluke fishing state along the Eastern Seaboard to pass a similar law. Every one of us would certainly benefit from that. You and I know it does no good for a New York fisherman's temperament to watch his close-by New Jersey brothers take all the short fluke they wish, while he must return his. Unquestionably, that is adding insult to injury.

Now—what has all this to do with the gist of this article.

Well...did you know that at one time we fluke fishermen were saddled with a 15 inch law? Let me tell you about it and how it came about.

"For a brief instant, I felt a shiver as I realized fleet-footed Death had stepped into our pilot house and had become an interested spectator."

Those who faithfully read these weekly articles know that I often comment on the fact that those fluke we call shorts today were indeed conspicuous by their absence 60 years ago when I first began fluke fishing. Party boat fishermen those days seldom caught fluke under 1½ pounds. It was rare to see fluke smaller than this.

For years we fellows went happily on our way, decking our nice sized fluke and with no thought of runts ever getting into our butter tubs. Then in 1939 my buddy Artie Leidecker told me of a fluke fishing paradise we'd never fished before—Jamaica Bay's Broad Channel area. And, he added, if we knew what was good for us, we'd better look into it. I was a mite surprised at Artie's suggestion, for he is not a skiff fisherman in the true sense of the word. Deep ocean water under him is what he likes when fishing.

So when he suggested Broad Channel for fluke, I knew the action had to be exceptional.

"I got it from the grapevine," he told me. "We better try it first, though, before we let the other guys in on it. Maybe somebody's pulling my leg. One guy says he got over eighty last week."

Even in those days, 80 fluke was a darned good catch in anyone's book. So, with that in mind, we made arrangements and several mornings later we rowed out into the waters of Broad Channel. I remember we dropped the anchor about 500 feet west of the bridge. ("No need to drift," Artie said.)

Artie was right. The fishing was fantastic. There was only one slight hitch. Every fluke we caught was about 10 inches long. I can't recall anything larger than that. Fishermen in nearby rowboats were filling potato sacks with these fish. Every time we lifted one of those small fluke in, a multitide of curious baby fluke swam to the surface, seemingly as an audience enthralled by the performance. I couldn't recall anything like it. (I have since.)

Well, you can bet we didn't remain fishing. In less than an hour we were back in the car and on the way home—fishless...and wondering what happened.

That fall, or perhaps it was that winter, the Conservation Department placed a 15 inch law on fluke, for it wasn't only Broad Channel which harbored these small fluke—they had blanketed the bottoms of every bay and creek on Long Island's South Shore. The Department wanted no repeat of that summer's asinine slaughter.

The following summer small fluke were again in evidence, but not in such overwhelming numbers. I can remember the Department rigidly enforcing that law. (Every small fluke fishing boat was checked at least twice a day—sometimes more often). Then came Pearl Harbor and we went to war.

In 1942, the law was rescinded. The powers-that-be felt it was better for citizens to eat short fluke, than it was to place a drain on the Armed Forces' food supply. Every little bit helped the mighty war effort. And that was

the way it remained until 15 to 20 years ago when the law was again applied—only this time the legal fluke length became 14 inches.

Enough of this short fluke business for now. It's time to get to other things.

Those of us who have fished for any length of time have exposed ourselves at one time and another to close calls—it is the nature of the beast. Most of these occurrences have been due to our own carelessness; therefore it behooves all of us to keep a sharp eye to windward. But sometimes we become involved through no fault of our own.

Here's a case in point.

During the days when I was growing up in the fishing game, Prohibition was the law of the land. No need for me to go into why it didn't work, for the reasons have been hashed and rehashed so often it becomes boring to even think about it. But I've got to tell you of one fellow who attempted to brighten somber Depression-ridden Days.

I only knew this gentleman as Gustaf. He was a burly, good natured, middle-aged Swede. Gustaf made bathtub gin, not to sell, but to bring good cheer to his friends—of which he had many, as you can imagine.

Gustaf was a great codfishing fan and to fortify himself against the elements, he always brought along a plentiful supply of his homemade joy juice. His trouble was that he brought so much of it, and he had so many friends (both old and newly established), that before we got out to the grounds, he and many of those friends were feeling no pain.

Gustaf's best friend was the Rose R II's skipper (aboard which I fished for many years as mate). Rumor had it that they were boyhood chums from their native Sweden. The skipper was a strict teetotaler—period. But Gustaf's drinking often became a thorn in the skipper's side. And as mate, I often had my hands full when Gustaf decided to live it up.

One rip-roaring winter day on our return from the Cholera Bank, Gustaf considered this an appropriate time stand on the bow and give vent to his feelings. The seas came crashing over the bow and Gustaf quickly became soaked. His heavy overcoat, now sodden, offered little protection. But this didn't lessen his enthusiasm. He was going to sing, and sing, he did.

Finally, the skipper called me. "Get that singing fool into the pilot house where I can keep an eye on him. We've got the inlet coming up."

After much coaxing and pleading, plus a super-human effort to release his grip on the bow rail, I got him started. By the time I got Gustaf into the pilot house, I was just as soaked through. It was enough to make me want to take a snort or two myself.

"Now you stay put, Gustaf," the skipper ordered. "If you go overboard in this sea, you're a dead man. Marty, stay here and keep an eye on him."

I don't know if you've ever brought a boat through Rockaway Inlet when the sea gets up on its hind legs and roars, but advice is not to unless you absolutely know your inlet and the boat under you.

With the banging and clanging and the pitching and tossing going on about me, I found it difficult just to remain standing for the next quarter mile when we would be in calmer waters. Suddenly there came the crash of breaking glass. Gustaf's head had gone through the port pilot house window.

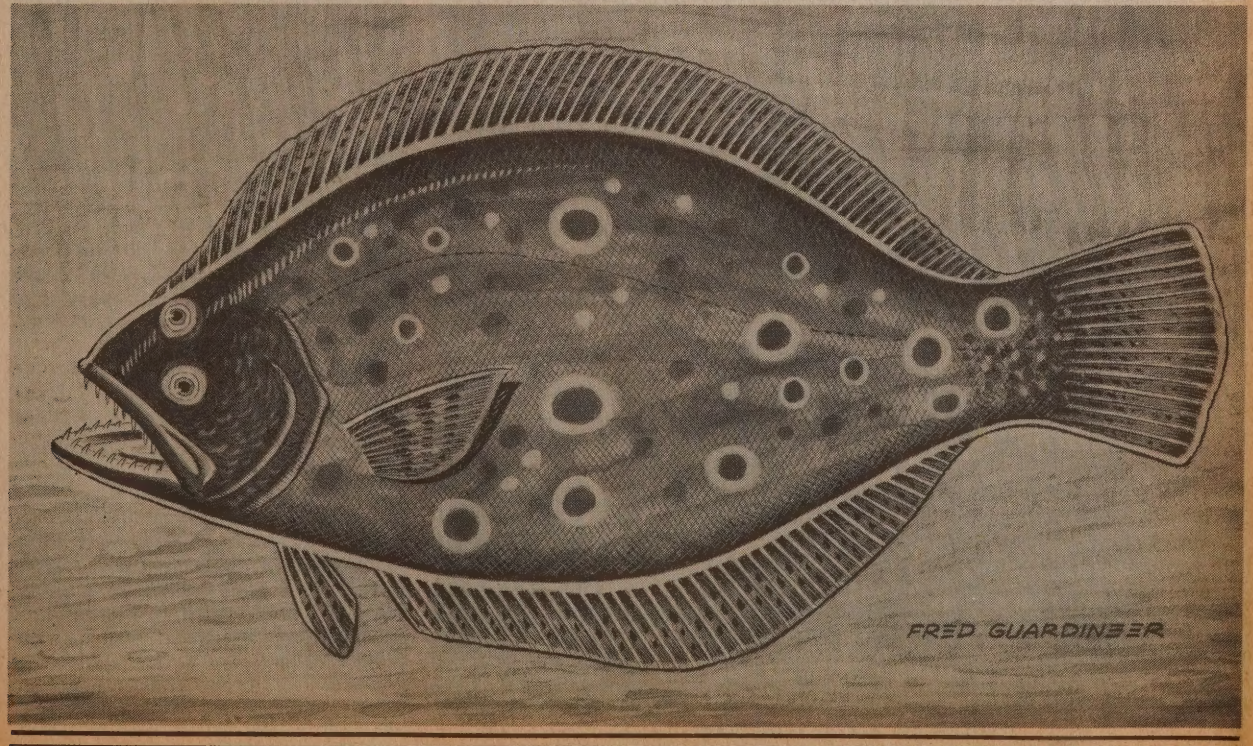
There hung poor Gustaf, helpless, with knees buckled and arms dangling at his sides. His bull-like neck rested on the sill. Long, jagged shards of glass gleamed wickedly about his bare head. I was certain that Gustaf's throat had been pierced. For a brief instant, I felt a shiver as I realized fleet-footed Death had stepped into our pilot house and had become an interested spectator.

I tugged and pulled, but Gustaf's 200 limp pounds were too much for me. With the skipper's sporadic aid I got our friend's head inside. We sat him on the pilot house floor, whereupon he began to moan. Miracle of miracles. Not a scratch did Gustaf have—except for two tiny cuts in the shape of a cross which flamed on the bridge of his nose. That tightly-buttoned, sodden overcoat had deflected instant death for Gustaf.

Our poor friend had fainted. When he regained consciousness, he appeared as sober as the proverbial judge. When I later produced a mirror and showed him the cross-like cuts and explained what had happened, he said: "By golly, Marty Boat, Im glad I didn't forget my prayers last night. Maybe I shouldn't drink so much."

I never saw Gustaf take a drink from that day on. Shortly after the incident, he went out of the free bathtub gin business. It's true, Gustaf may have lost some fair-weather friends, but as he told me later, he didn't need a ton of bricks to fall on him to get the message.

'Nuff said.



DEVELOPING YOUR ROD BUILDING SKILLS

Part Two—*by Capt. Pete & Tom Mikoleski*

We're finally ready to start construction on the rod blank. The first thing that goes on the blank is the grip. By definition of the grip, we mean whatever material you choose to go in front of the reel seat and behind it, as well as the reel seat itself. As a rule of thumb, I try to design the length of each grip (foregrip + reel seat + rear grip) so that when you hold the rod by the reel seat the rear portion of the grip is long enough to reach **at least** the back of the elbow. The reason for this is that when you are fighting that trophy fish, you'll be able to wedge the butt of your rod against the underside of your forearm and elbow to gain leverage. Should you be lucky enough to hook that record fish you can conveniently jam the rod butt into your stomach right above the belt buckle for added leverage, and still be able to reel. Bet you didn't know that what's your navel was for. That's right, your own built-in gimbal belt. The good Lord had a reason for everything. Of course, there are exceptions to the general rule. Fly rods, for example, and long two-handed, three-piece split-butt grips on heavy duty surf sticks, as well as ultralight spinning gear and those short, stubby, heavy abominations they stick on the end of freshwater baitcasting rods. The grips on trolling rods are designed to make it comfortable to pump and reel when wearing a heavy duty gimbal belt or while lounging in a fighting chair. So if your rod isn't going to be one of these exceptions stick with the elbow length rule of thumb.

Basically there are two types of materials used as grips on fishing rods today. Cork and synthetic foam rubber grips. Cork was one of the first materials devised to serve as grips long ago. Although it transmits the feeling of sensitivity quite well, and it is very light weight, forget about using it as a grip right now. Manufacturing a cork grip can be extremely tedious and time consuming. Soon you'll have enough construction details to worry about. Besides synthetic grips will always last longer than cork, will be much easier to construct and probably more cost effective to use. Foam rubber grips, commonly referred to as Hypalon grips come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Once you determine how long the grips must be then you have to pick one with the appropriate size diameter hole that will fit your blank. Usually these grips come with 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 or 7/8 inch inner diameter holes drilled through the length of the grip. You will probably need a rear grip that will be somewhere between 10 and 14 inches long and a foregrip that will measure between 4 and 6 inches long. Obviously you won't find a grip with the exact diameter hole to fit your blank. But don't worry about that; you'll be amazed how much you can stretch the diameter of these grips to make them fit correctly. Once you have determined the approximate length of the grips, pick a grip that you can **easily** slide down the blank till it starts to snug up about 18 to 24 inches ahead of where you want the grip to go. (Whenever you build a rod you start at the butt and work towards the tip.) If you can get them this close, they'll slide right down snugly into place with some lubrication. That's the secret! Now after you've selected the rear grip, make a mark about 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch from the butt end of the blank. Wrap some masking tape around the blank, thick enough to act as a stop for the rear grip. This is where the rubber butt cap will go later on. If necessary, the diameter of the blank is built up with masking tape for a snug fit and the cap is epoxied into place. We like to use rubber butt caps because we feel they cushion the impact on the base of the blank and they usually last longer than the plastic ones. Just try to pick a size that comes closest to the diameter of the butt end of your blank, and when ready, cement in place.

Measure the distance from the masking tape to where the front of the rear grip should be. Make another mark. Immediately before you're ready to slide the rear grip into place, mix some slow drying two part epoxy and spread it all around, between the 2 marks on the blank. A wooden popsicle stick or scrap piece of wood or fiberglass blank makes a good mixing stick. Now lubricate the whole blank in front of the epoxy with liquid dishwashing detergent. And just for good measure, squirt some into the grip also. Lately, since this is such a messy operation we have been using the type of soap that auto mechanics

Sliding the foregrip into place.

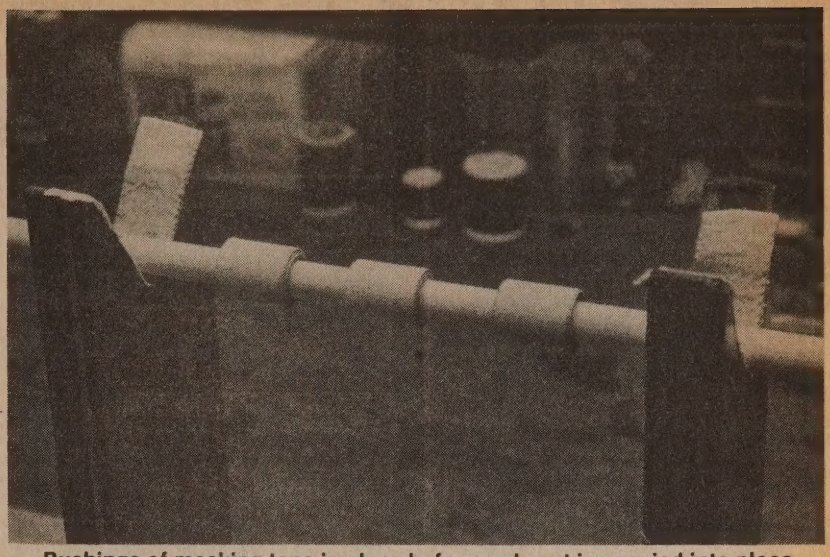
use to get the grease off their hands. It's sold under a variety of trade names, lubricates just as well but isn't as messy. We have also been told that shaving cream is also a good lubricant, but haven't had the time to test it out as yet. Once the blank is lubricated, slide the rear grip into place. Sometimes it takes a little time (hence the **slow drying epoxy**) and muscle but if you've selected the right size grip, should have no problems at all. If you have a particularly large diameter blank, and the grip looks a little snug, try soaking the grip in boiling hot water for 15 or 20 minutes before you try to put it on. This will only work if you go from the boiling water **immediately** to the rod blank. Invariably soap and epoxy will ooze out from under the grip. Acetone and plenty of paper towels will clean up the excess epoxy easily enough, if you do it before the epoxy starts setting up.

Once the rear grip is on it's time to work on mounting the reel seat. Reel seats are made from various materials. Chrome over brass and anodized aluminum seats have been the most popular in the past. Today some really super reel seats are made out of graphite. These new reel seats offer many advantages to the custom builder. First off, they are very light in weight. They are strong enough, we have been using them on our own trolling and shark rods and haven't had any problems as of yet. The theory is, that they will also transmit more sensitivity to the hand holding the reel seat than brass or aluminum seats. Also, if you're a cold weather fisherman these graphite reel seats won't feel ice cold after being subjected to sub-zero wind chill factors. Flounder pounders and codfish pros will appreciate this. A word of caution: although we highly recommend the new graphite reel seats, stick with the Fuji seats. They cost a few cents more, but the threads and tracks that the hoods run on are cut deeper and hold much better. Varmac and Lakeland manufacture the best machined chrome over brass and aluminum reel seats that we've seen.

When selecting the correct size reel seats most people pick the seat that fits the blank as snugly as possible. In theory this is correct, but we prefer to pick a seat large enough that it will be able to come off the rear of the blank whenever feasible. The reason for this is simple. Since our rods are expected to last a long time, it is possible that the epoxy holding the reel seat on might dry out and crack over the years. In the event that we may have to replace a reel seat in the future, we want to be able to remove it without having to disassemble the whole rod. It doesn't happen often, but we want to have our options open. Whether you plan to go this route yourself or not, you will probably have to make some bushings to fit the reel seat to the blank.

We make our bushings out of plain

(Continued on next page.)



Bushings of masking tape in place before reel seat is epoxied into place.

Rear grip and graphite reel seat epoxied into place.

Fuji BNHG casting guides are favored by the author.

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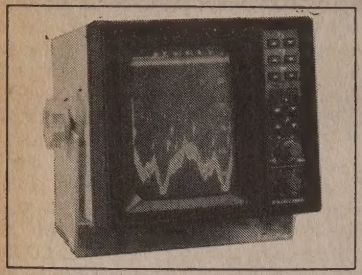

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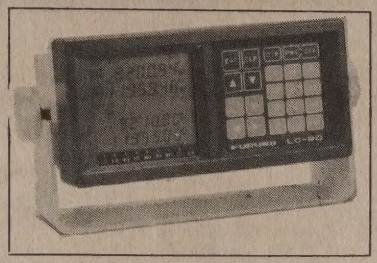

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ordinary masking tape. Mark the length of the reel seat on the blank. Three bushings, one at each end and one in the middle usually suffice. Clean the blank with acetone and wrap some masking tapes tightly around the blank about 1/4 of an inch in front of the rear grip. The reel seat should fit over the tape bushing, but it should be a snug fit. Make the other two bushings, one in the middle of the seat and one about a quarter of an inch behind the front edge of the seat, the same way. The fit here is very important because it must be tight enough to lock in the reel seat, yet there must be enough room for the epoxy. You can tell if the fit is good if the epoxy is sucked up under the reel seat when it's slid into place. After the bushings are made take a round file and rough up the interior surfaces of the reel seat. Do the same to the surface of the rod blank between the bushings. Then liberally coat the tape bushings and the rest of the blank with the same two part **slow drying epoxy** as before. Line up the reel seat so the hoods are in the correct position on the blank (relative to the spline and high side) and slide it snugly into place. Make sure the hoods of the reel seat are on top of the strong side for a conventional rod and directly underneath the strong side for a spinning rod. You can adjust the reel seat before the epoxy sets. Now epoxy the foregrip in place the same way you mounted the rear grip and clean up all excess epoxy with acetone, remembering to keep the epoxy out of the threads on the reel seat! Check for realignment again and put the blank aside to dry overnight undisturbed.

Some people will dispute the use of masking tape for reel seat bushings. They would prefer to make their bushings out of cork. We feel that the combination of the proper fit and plenty of epoxy will make for a trouble-free bushing. Cork rings are very difficult to ream out, plus you must center them accurately and match the taper of the blank. We feel that mounting the reel seat off center will do more harm than the remote possibility of a tape bushing failing.

However, when we build a heavy duty trolling rod (50 lb. class and up) if a bushing is needed we will use cork just to play it safe.

When you put all that work into a custom rod it would be a shame to try and cut corners and use guides that will not last. Aluminum oxide guides are the only way to go. Although carbide and roller guides have their place, for the most part aluminum oxide will give you many seasons of trouble free use with a minimal amount of maintenance. Perfection, Mildrum and Fuji all make very good aluminum oxide guides. We feel that the Fuji BNHG Hard Speed Casting Guides are the lightest, strongest guides and the best value for your money. These guides come in ring sizes from 6 to 40mm and can be used for conventional, baitcasting and most

spinning rods. If you need bigger guides for a spinning rod, Fuji's BSHG series is also a good bet. If you prefer to go with Perfection or Mildrum guides fine, we use them also, but the Fuji is our personal favorite. When it comes to roller guides, it's either Aftco or FinNor guides on our rods. The main point we're trying to make here is to use an aluminum oxide guide made by a reputable manufacturer and you'll be in good shape.

How many guides will you need? You can never really tell until you actually space them out on the blank. We've devised a rule of thumb that comes pretty close, most of the time. Figure on using one guide for every foot of the rod blank plus one. For example, if my blank is 6½ feet long, I'll pick up 7 guides. If it's a 9 footer, I'll take 10 guides, and so on. From time to time you may not use all the guides, but having an extra one is better than coming up short anyway. Before you pick out your guides, find the correct size tiptop. If you can't find one to fit exactly, you can always wrap some thread around the tip for a snug fit. **Never sand down the tip of the blank**. Those walls are very thin and you don't want to tamper with them. Now when you select the first guide after the tip make sure the diameter of the ring is at least the same size as the one on the tip or slightly larger, whenever possible. This is more important on a spinning rod than a conventional rod. Now choose the rest of your guides, stepping them up in size as you go from the tip to the reel seat. Try to picture the guides funneling the line from your reel down the blank. That plus keeping the line off the blank (when it's flexed to the limit) is the guide's job. When selecting the last guide near the reel if it's a spinning rod, try to match the size of the ring on the butt guide to the diameter of the spool on the spinning reel you plan to use. It's a good idea to make the size of the guide a little bigger if possible. This isn't as critical on a conventional rod, pick a butt guide that looks proportional to the diameter of the blank. The size of this guide on a conventional rod is usually between 15 to 25 mm. While you're a beginner, if you are in doubt, don't be afraid to seek the advice of the person behind the counter.

Spacing the guides is another critical step, so take your time and do it carefully. That's the only way to get the blank to perform the way it was designed to. To keep it short and simple **you have to space the guides** (and use enough of them) **so that your line never touches the blank**, even when it's stressed. Mount the reel you're going to use on the rod (of course you made sure that reel would fit the reel seat when you bought it, right?) and temporarily tape the tiptop in place. Again, with masking tape, temporarily tape the tiptop in place. Again, with masking tape, temporarily tape the first guide in place about 3 inches or so from the tip. Thread your line through the smallest guide and the tiptop and secure it to an immovable object. Flex that blank like you're socking it to a record fish and see if the line touches the blank anywhere between the guide and the tip. If it does, move the guide closer to the tip until the line doesn't rub the blank. Do this with every guide until you're sure the line doesn't touch anywhere on the blank. If it does, this is called a 'dead spot' and must be eliminated. Increase the distance between each guide proportionately as you go down the blank. Usually the last guide, your butt guide should end up about 18 to 22 inches from your reel. If you are having trouble keeping the line off the blank, consider stepping up the size of the guides. A bigger guide will keep the line higher off the blank, so you should, in theory, be able to space the guides farther apart. If the blank can handle bigger guides without drooping near the tip, you will probably be able to get by with fewer of the bigger guides.

The number of guides on a rod doesn't phase me at all. You have to use as many as necessary to **keep that line off the blank**. On a spinning rod though, I would try to use as few as possible to eliminate line friction which ultimately, will cut down your casting distance!

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THE MANY MOODS OF WINTER

by Fred Laager

It is the time of year called winter and I love it. The time when I actually have the time to sit down and read, really read, all of those sporting magazines that have been accumulating dust in the corner. It is the time to wade through past issues looking for pictures that somehow resemble similar pictures my mind has taken throughout the years. Credibility, that's what it is. If the picture in the article looks like a scene that has happened, or could have happened to me I'll read it; if not, there's always the next page; the next issue.

Winter is the time of year when trophies come alive. When the fish on the wall moves the way he did when he was caught. His eyes glow with life once more as you remember not only the fish, but the time, the place, the smell of the air and the thrill of the fight. To others he is merely a fiberglass fish on the wall of the den, but to you he is a time machine; a token of what has been and a reminder of what can be.

Winter is a picturesque time of year when slide projectors cast images on the wall and in your heart. It is the time when albums come out of hiding and are passed around, etc. It is now that you notice that the colors in the picture have faded just a bit; that the blues of the water and of the sky have just a bit too much green in them. You remember it well. Your mind has preserved the true colors of the scene better than any snapshot could.

Winter is the season when strange creatures make their habits known. It is the time when we realize that the common tackle weaver had taken up residence in the bottom of our tackle boxes over the summer. We find the abandoned remnants of what appears to be a nest—a hopeless entanglement of hooks and lines, lures, rigs and other bits and pieces of fishing paraphernalia nestled snugly in the corner of the box. Often, I sit in awe staring at the fine workmanship this bird has employed and I marvel at the way each line is perfectly knotted around the other. Undoubtedly, this bird is a master of his trade.

It is up to me, however, as landlord of the box, to keep it in perfect order for now and for the season to come. Tediously I undo every knot and tangle putting each lure in its own compartment, sorting sinkers according to size and shape; making perfectly sure that everything is in order so as not to attract the tackle weaver to the box once more. I curse the bird with a string of adjectives calling him forgetful, lazy, disorganized, untidy and the incarnation of sloth. I even proclaim that he is stupid but then I realize that I am the one who is stupid. He was smart enough to leave for warmer climes to the south while I am here amid the snow and the cold struggling with the mess he has left behind.

"I am thinking of the next season that will find me standing in a river, fishing a lonely stretch of beach or cruising out in the blue water trying to tease up some monster from the deep."

Winter is the time of year when I pour myself a little nightcap, take out the set of mini screwdrivers and go to work greasing and cleaning my collection of reels for the next season. Sitting hunchbacked over my workbench, I often play a little game with myself seeing if I can reassemble a reel without looking at the diagram. To this day I have never had more than two parts left over and I am also, to the best of my knowledge, the only fisherman in the world whose reels can play any of the popular sea chanties without missing a note. They are, in fact, very finely tuned instruments. Once I received a compliment from a fellow party boat fisherman who undoubtedly was not only a fine angler but a connoisseur of music as well. After fishing side by side with him for an entire day he finally turned to me and said, "Why don't you get a monkey to go around collecting money when you crank that thing!" Obviously, he was in awe of the fine music that was emanating from within the reel but I assured him that I didn't need the money and that pets aren't allowed on open boats. I must admit that I sometimes pour myself more than just one drink when I am overhauling my reels because I work under the assumption that a well lubricated reel requires a well lubricated fisherman.

Winter is the time for boat shows and sportsmen's shows. It is the time when we get out of the house and travel many miles to see and perhaps buy, all of the goodies that will make us more productive fishermen. It is also the time for learning and the time for teaching. It is the time to rub elbows with the experts; to perhaps learn a few "tricks" that you never knew before and to teach the experts a few "tricks" that they never knew before. It is the time to join with others who are similarly afflicted with winter fever at a place where only thoughts of spring and summer exist.

Winter is the time for passing around stories. It is a time when fishermen get together and relive the glories of yesteryear. It is the season when the one that got away comes back; when the amount of fish caught in a single afternoon multiplies threefold; when fishermen remember bumper crop days they never remembered before and when those days that seemed ordinary become exceptional and blaze forth with new glory and intensity. It is the time when children gather around and listen to the stories the old men have to tell. It is the time when legends are created amidst the warmth of the hearth and it is the time when most of us realize that snow isn't the only thing that gets shovelled in winter.

Winter is the time to get reacquainted with the family. The time to put fishing aside for a few brief moments to enjoy domestic bliss. It is the time for sitting down to a warm meal; perhaps talking about the various things that have happened to each member of the clan and a time for stroking the dog's head who has come to sit by his master's side. It is the time to be content with family life and the joy of reading a newspaper in the

Winter—a quiet time along the waterfront.

quiet solitude of the living room as the children quietly do their homework. Ah, the serenity of winter!

But winter is also the time of cabin fever; of snow and slush and everything that is wet and dirty. It is the time when the kids come in soaked to the bone with Woody, the trusty labrador retriever, who commences to shake himself off next to the new curtains causing my spouse to shout obscenities at me for buying a dog so coarse in his manners. The kids are similarly shouted at for bringing the dog out in the first place and are told to remove their clothes before they catch pneumonia. This they do, every so slowly mind you, as a torture to the one who commanded them. Suddenly, one of them starts to cry, a music that rings out and pierces my brain to the very core. The cause of the crying I am unaware of (probably the usual kind associated with the meeting of brother and sister and a hidden snowball), but I realize that I need to get away from all of this; to find sanctuary, and occupy my time with anything remotely related to fishing.

Hobbies. Yes, winter is the time for hobbies. Better yet, it is the time for hobbies that will make you a better fisherman. I tried rod building, and that was fun, until all of my friends started putting in orders for custom made sticks; not allowing of course, for the cost of my labor. I then decided not to make any more rods (which came as a blow to some friends who hadn't as yet received theirs). I told them that the rods I produced were the only ones of their kind and that to make any more would certainly cause the resale market price of such rare custom-made sticks to fall. I told them that the ones I produced were masterpieces graced with the maker's signature; the epitome of fine craftsmanship; the mirror image of their creator and that to produce any more would tarnish my humble image.

I then tried lure making and sinker making (I made some of the finest leads on the East Coast) and I tried modifying my reels with various high speed gears, special bracer bars and lightweight spools and reel seats. I found that the floating lures I made sank; that the spinners I produced didn't spin; that lure making in general should be left to someone with some kind of manual dexterity; that I do a marvelous impersonation of Quasimodo, the hunchback of Notre Dame, as I am constantly spilling molten lead on the feet of unsuspecting victims and I also found that my reels can now play ragtime due to the high speed gearing and the wonderful acoustics of aluminum spools.

Winter is an inevitable time of year but I love it just the same. Somehow I always manage to keep busy as the snow piles up in my yard and as always I am thinking of the next season that will find me standing in a river, fishing a lonely stretch of beach or cruising out in the blue water trying to tease up some monster from the deep. For now I might try my hand at making some more lead sinkers or perhaps I might sing a few sea chanties as I crank my 4/0 barrel organ. The kids have just come in with the dog and the music is just beginning. Quickly, I disappear into the den carrying a ladle of molten lead shouting, "Sanctuary!" as I close the door behind me.

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East End REPORT

No news here in the way of rod and reel activity but some of the setliners have been taking fish when the weather cooperates.

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Carl Darenberg, Jr. at **Montauk Marine Basin** reported that setliners have been taking cod on a hit and miss basis with weather being a big factor in the fishing. Most have been working well south of the Point. Carl knew of no rod and reel activity as of yet at the Point but suspected that a couple more mild weekends would see some anglers take to the water. Carl reminded that the Marine Basin has added Egg Harbor to its boat line. They will continue as a Topaz dealer as well. Also, bluewater fans will want to mark the dates of September 9 thru 12 on their calendar. Those days will mark the Marine Basin's Monster Marlin Tournament. An entry fee of $3800 is designed to result in a big purse for the angler lucky enough to deck the largest marlin of the event. Entry fees are already coming in and if you'd like more info on this prestigious event you can call the Marine Basin at 516-668-5900.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Fishing activity remained at a minimum along this stretch of waterfront despite the somewhat mild weather. Probably the most noteworthy action occured on the freshwater side of the ledger as a result of Saturday's opening of Connetquot State Park. More on this later.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

No word on any flounder action in the Quogue Canal, a result of no one really making an attempt. This via the crew at **L & M Marineland** in **East Moriches**. Anyone getting the urge

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GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

A call to Gil Bergen, head honcho at Connetquot River State Park revealed a good turnout of anglers for the season opening on the weekend. Fifty flyfishermen tested the waters on Saturday with another 46 taking to beats on Sunday. Many of the casters reported good action and while no extraordinary fish were reported by Gil he did see several rainbows up to 2 pounds. Anglers who did best worked small nymphs and streamers down deep and slow. A reminder that the early season fishing (February-March) is restricted to two sessions a day 8AM-12 and Noon-4PM. The park is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Reservations can be made by calling 516-581-1005.

Over at **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Joe Modica had nothing to report as far as white perch action in the local creeks. He did have one customer stop by on his return from Connetquot State Park on Saturday. He reported taking lots of nice trout from beat 11. Joe also told of selling some nightcrawlers to two guys who were enroute to Quogue Monday morning. They spoke of having taken a few flatties from the Canal recently. Joe also passed along the results of last season's shop fishing contest. First place for surf bass went to George Dietz with a 47.10 pounder. Right on his heels was Joe Belmonte with a striper of 47.9 pounds. First surf blue went to Ed Budris for a 17.7 pound fish. Ozzie Van Helmond finished second with a 17.4 pound chopper. In the surf weakfish division, Gary Hall took first with an 11.9 pound tiderunner and Gary Maher was close behind with a weak of 11.2 pounds. In the boat division, Lorry Mangan took the top bass spot with a 20 pound 11 ounce striper. Jeff Soundersted saw his 15.4 pound chopper take that category. The weakfish prize went to Dick Bianca with a 12.10 pound tiderunner. Greg Maynard nailed a 7.2 pound fluke while Lorry Mangan scored again with a 10.9 pound blackfish. In the freshwater division, Bernie Lorentz took the trout category with a 3.2 pounder, Dan

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Jack Atwell of Sportsman's Cafe in Freeport with weaks of 12, 10 and 10 lbs. taken last fall near the Meadowbrook Bridge. They were taken after dark on live bunker. Subscriber photo.

Siebert had a 7.10 pound largemouth and paired that with a pickerel of a whopping 6 pounds.

From **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Al Colban reported that hordes of small trout continue to entertain anglers at both Bubbles and Rattlesnake. Each day sees several nice fish in the 12 to 18 inch size range taken as well. Just prior to speaking with Al on Monday morning, an angler stopped to restock up on nightcrawlers after taking 25 white perch and a 2 pound trout from his car-top boat on the Connetquot. He also reported taking a few of the fish on small leadhead jig and Mr. Twister combos. Getting back to trout, Al did speak to a couple of fishermen who worked the park on the weekend. Each reported good fishing.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Captain Joseph II** reported that while they failed to sail during the week they did manage to get out to the cod grounds on both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was a nice day but a big heave and stiff breeze made Sunday miserable. The skipper added that fishing was way off as well with just a few fish taken each day. Most skippers continue to work the wrecks as open bottom has been void of fish in most cases.

Tom Healy speaking from **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** reported that the highlight of the week was a 21" pickerel taken during the week by Paul Ripperger. Paul used a small Rapala swimming plug to take the toothy fish from Southard's Pond. No news on white perch and in fact Tom tried several south shore tidal creeks himself over the weekend with no results. He did know that a couple of guys have been taking flounder in the Massapequa area. This, second hand, but from a reliable source.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

The extremely unsettled weather and generally poor fishing conditions offshore have combined to make this one of the pickiest, slowest weeks of fishing in a long while. Nonetheless, some codfish were caught on the open boats while to the west various party boats, mainly on the weekend, had excelent blackfish catches with ling and whiting affording a fair pick for anglers making the effort.

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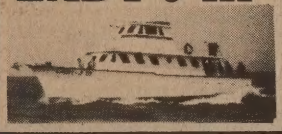

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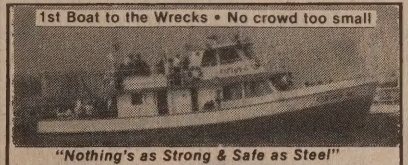

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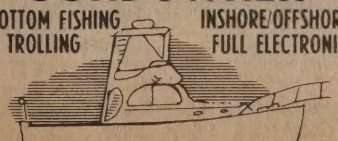

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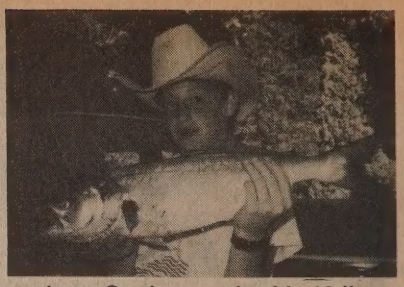

Jesse Gordon caught this 12 lb. blue in Plum Gut back in October. The youngster fished out of Port of Egypt Fishing Station in Southold aboard the Radiance.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

Captain Chris Specht, temporarily filling in for Captain Richie Kessinger on Freeport's **Starstream II** told of very tough fishing Friday and Saturday. Some cod were picked on both wrecks and open bottom, with wrecks producing best. Fish ran up to 12 pounds on clam. Chris stressed that it was tough fishing.

Sailing out of Point Lookout, Captain Bill Lindroth who is now running the boat on Sundays while his dad Captain Al Lindroth is on vacation, also described a tough week of fishing. Saturday saw 18 cod taken and 25 on Sunday, with both wrecks and open bottom producing. Bill said on one wreck, the bergalls were unbelievable. He decried the fact that once the fishing seems to get going, more weather comes through and disperses the fish. All the cod are spread out, said Bill due to the storm systems, but they are there. He told of a setliner of his acquaintance who had 20 boxes of cod one day this week, of course, with the setlines stretching for many miles. We need some calm weather, was Bill's parting wish. Fish have been running 7 to 25 pounds with the average fish 10 to 15 pounds. While Al is out of town, Captain Butch is also filling in at the helm.

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Speaking with Wee Willie at **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay, right across from the fleet, we hear of excellent blackfishing being done just south of 17 Fathoms. The wee one said these fish are all 'hogs'' and are being taken on green crab. The open boats that are sailing for whiting and ling are doing an acceptable job at 17 Fathoms also. The only night whiting fishing is being done by the **Helen H** and the wee one said that the whiting fishing under the stars has been good to very good.

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81 ROBALO Sportfisherman 26' 5"X10' beam. V-bunks, galley w/sink, icebox. Head w/sink & shower. Twin Mercruiser I/Bs. Custom tower, hydraulic controls, outriggers, fighting chair. Loran, VHF, knotlog, fuel totalizer, seawater temp., Halon. $44,900. 201-327-1123. Eves: 201-327-7180.

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2-$276; 4-$450; 6-$608; 8-$708; 9.9-$916; 15-$1028; 25-$1200; 35-$1300; 40-$1480; 50-$1900; 60-$2160; 70-$2390; 90-$2640; 115-$2900; 120-$3660; 140-$3840; 150-$3700; 175-$4000; 235-$4750; 275-$7500. ELECTRA MARINE INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere. MERCURY OUTBOARDS. New 1984. Phone quotes. Full service shop.

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ONLY $8880
21' STEIGER CRAFT w/90 hp Mercury. Commercial & pleasure models. MARINELAND: Mattituck, 516-298-4040. Long Beach: 516-889-5000.

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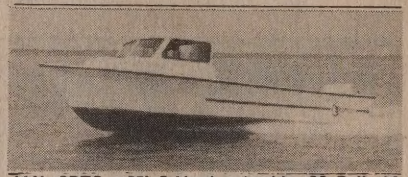
BAYHEAD MARINA: Mariner, Mercruiser, Volvo. Parts, Sales, Service. Factory certified mechanics. Help for the Do-It-Yourselfers. 718-525-5724.

1982 BLACK FIN 25' Combi Overnighter Fisherman, 165 hp, Crusaders w/275 hrs. Halon extinguishers, SW washdown. Canvas, VHF, CB, depthfinder. At Montauk. Dr.'s boat. Clean. 212-288-2297.



JAN. SPEC.—25' C-Hawk w/cuddy, SS Rail, 96 gal. fuel tank, 1986 150 hp Suzuki, SS prop. Dual batt. & W/S wipers, bilge pump, 4 rod holders. FOB $17,800. Financing avail. JENSEN MARINE, Copiague, NY. 516-226-9739.

1984 17' PROLINE, center console. Rigged for fishing. 70 hp Yamaha, Shoreline galv. trailer. CG Pkg. $8500. After 6PM: 516-589-6599.

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REGAL Regency 21 FF 1983 470 Mercruiser, 210 hrs. VHF, DF, dual batt. Full canvas. Winterized. Extras. $15,500. 516-957-5904.

1979 GRADY WHITE Sprint 17' 70 hp Evinrude. Trailer & full canvas. $3750. 718-225-4043.

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BERTRAM 31 Moppie Express. Tuna tower. 440s. Loaded. 24 knot cruise. $39,000. 516-728-3420.

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BERTRAM 28' Limited Edition 1985 O/B Sportfisherman. 10' beam, huge cockpit. Cuddy cabin, hanging lockers, V-berths, cushions. Twin Yamaha V6 specials. Compl. instrumentation, Kiekhaefer controls, Capilano hydraulic steering. 20 hrs.; 5-yr. hull & 2-yr. motor warranties. Documented. Price Reduction—$41,900. 516-826-0263.

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LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, incl. the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In stock along w/290 & 342. Also dealers for Sportcraft, Chris Craft, OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.

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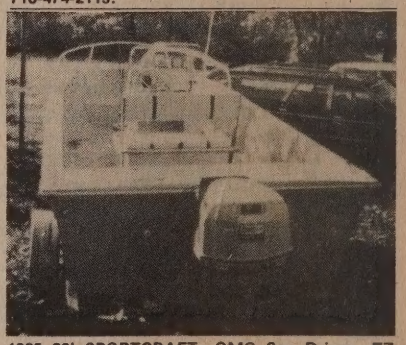
CUSTOMIZED MAKO 22 90 Mercs 1980, SS props, 600 hrs. Dual instruments, chart, VHF, Loran, electric tabs & winch, galv. trailer. Much more. Excl. $11,750. Days: 718-768-8700. Eves: 718-474-2119.



1985 20' SPORTCRAFT, OMC Sea Drives. EZ Loader, computer recorders, VHF. Hydraulic steering & extras. 3-yr. factory warranty with or W/O V8 towing station wagon. $16,000. 331-4380.

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32' 1982 Stamas Flybridge Cruiser. Low hrs. Custom extras. Must see. Wknds & after 7PM: 516-567-6733.

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1979 G/W 204C 20' Cuddy, 200 hp, 1979. VHF, DF, trailer-$13,500
1975 G/W 204 Fisherman CC, 140 hp 1979-$6455
1973 G/W Stingray 16', 85 hp Merc. 1977-$3500.
USED PRIVATEER BOATS
1984 21' 6" CC, 125 hp Volvo I/O, VHF, DF, spray hood-$13,70
1984 21' 6" CC, 125 hp Volvo I/O, EMS chase boat-$11,995
1983 18' CC, 70 hp Johnson, VHF, DF. Excl. cond.-$7650
1984 18' Closed Bow 70 hp 1985. Navy top. Brown acrylic bowrail-$8450
OTHER USED BOATS
1981 purchased new in 82 Chris Craft cutlass 22' cuddy 1984 engine, . . . Loaded. Mint-$19,975
1977 Eastward Ho sailboat 24', Volvo diesel-$24,500
1983 Glassport 17' B/R 140 Johnson 1984. Loaded-$10,995
1982 Renken 21' cuddy 140 OMC I/O-$8995
1982 Sportcraft 17' CC, 90 hp 1984-$7650
1974 Mako 19' CC, 115 Johnson 1980-$6950
1983 Renken 19' 90 hp Chrysler O/B. Clean-$6400
1981 Luger 21' Sailboat. 9.9 O/B, trailer-$6500
1968 Cruisers 15' B/R, 65 hp 1973 Very clean-$5995
1980 Galaxy 18' Mark IV, 120 hp Merc I/O-$5900
1966 Starcraft 18' 100 hp 1979 trailer. Excl.-$5900
1968 Customcraft 17' 60 hp Johnson 81. Loaded-$5900
1983 Dell Quay Dory 13' 83 35 hp Johnson. Canvas-$4300
1974 Marquis 18' B/R, 140 Evin. 1977-$3995
1963 Fleetcraft 17½ 60 hp 1984-$3900
1965 Chris Craft 15' B/R, 40 hp 1974-$1895
1968 Chris Craft 22' Cutlass 250 hp I/B, 150-hrs-$2900
Lots more new & used boats avail. Cross over the bridge & save.

EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Bch. 2nd St., Lawrence, NY 11691; 718-327-3168.

1983 15' SEASQUIRT, 1983 40 hp Suzuki, Hydraulic tilt. Fully rigged for fishing, custom trailer. Must see. Mint cond. $5500. Before 6PM: 212-991-8400. After 6PM: 718-899-8046.

1984 17' PROLINE Center console, 90 hp Evinrude, Tee-Nee galv. trailer w/EZ Load rollers, power winch, Si-Tex chart recorder, VHF radio. Excl. cond. Extras. $8700. 516-764-5798.

19' MAKO. Compl. rigged. Custom console, electronics. Dual batt., new gas tank, outriggers. 1984 115 Chrysler w/warranty. EZ Load trailer. Excl. cond. $8700 takes all. Days: 212-975-2565. Eves: 516-536-8479.

1981 28 Bertram FB, TMD 40
1969 31 Bertram, Sportfish
1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar
1976 31 Bertram FB. Great shape
1962 31 Bertram Express Cruiser
1971 42 Hatteras 1981 VT903 Fish equip.
SEA JAC, 728-4220/6627.

23' PROLINE Cuddy 200 hp Merc. 40 hrs. Galv. trailer. Full curtains; X-15 two transducers, chair, wipers. Washdown. Like new. Buying 28' Proline. Gary, Days: 914-739-7533.

MAKO 21', 175 hp Johnson. Shoreline trailer. CB, recorder. Warranty on Engine. $11,000. 718-891-1747.

GRADY WHITE 24 Offshore, Walkaround cuddy, launched 4/85. 200 Merc. & 25 Johnson O/Bs. Hull & motors under warranty. Full electronics pkg. & compl. canvas. Offshore rigged w/many options, plus 150 gal. fuel capacity. Less than 100 hrs. Priced to go. Call JR, 516-499-2288.

BLUE WATER FISHERMAN
23 SEA CRAFT 1977 Sceptre cuddy cabin, 1981 Mercury Black Max 225 hp. Well equip., excl. cond. One of the best ocean performers ever built. Ask anyone! Asking $15,900. 516-728-3797.

21' Privateer
PORT OF EGYPT, Southold. 516-765-2445.

1979 25' BLACKFIN, twin Volvo diesels, w/tower. Full electronics. Mint! $39,000. 516-378-5072.

IT'S GOTTA GO! 1983 Aquasport 24' Express Fisherman, 1983 Mercury 200 hp O/B with TNT, 115 hrs. 1985 Mercury 9.8 hp on S/S bracket. Goode Windlass & pulpit, electronics & much more! $16,995. GOLDSMITH'S BOAT SHOP, 516-765-1600.

'84 RENKEN, 19' 7" 900 Fish, 1.6 OMC Sea Drive, 115 hp, oil injected, PT&T. Dual batt, King 1022 digital chart recorder. Horizon VHF, 26 gal. fuel, canvas top & extras. Wide open fishing boat. $7500. Eves: 201-991-7650.

MERCRUISER 165 Stern Drive. Compl. w/gimbal housing & P/T. 3-yrs. old. Excl. cond. $1200. W/Engine & manifold $1600. 516-587-1563.

1983 GRADY WHITE TOURNAMENT 24
Sea drive 2.6, hydraulic steering, SS prop & spare, 93 gal. gas tank, 50 gas tank/fuel filter. Tach, Dytek temp. Water pres. fuel & hr, T/T, auto. bilge pump, windshield wiper, USA Horizon & CB, Nelco Loran, Morrow recorder. Visa top canvas, 190 & 60 qt. insulated boxes. 90 & 45 insulated boxes. Cockpit lights & deck light, 12 rod holders. 2 large storage comlpartments, 4 drawer tackle locker, washdown pump. Out ? down riggers, gin pole, swim plat., aux. motor bracket. Teak pulpit & Good windlass. You checked the show price—now check this. It's all here. We want a bigger one! $23,000. 516-764-1257.

SHAMROCK 26' Hard Top, Keel drive. Loaded w/ extras. Perfect for deep sea fishing. 728-4011.

1982 25 MAKO 1985 235 Evinrude, 3-yr. factory warranty. Stainless steel T-top, rocket launcher. Custom outriggers, electronics box. Furuno radar 2000, VHF, Si-Tex recorder, Loran C. Hydraulic steering. Full canvas & cushions. Excl. cond. 718-224-9579.

29 TOPAZ 1985, twin Volvo TAMD40B diesels, FWC, AM/FM cassette stereo, batt. charger, bow pulpit, cabin fan, compass, Halon, Y-valve head w/shower, radio box, refrig., washdown, tower lights, T/T, tower w/controls, wipers, canvas encl., tower cover, custom tackle lockers/cabinet seats w/cushions, C-Master V, Horizon Int VHF, Lowrance X-16, Si-Tex T100 radar. Dytek temp, Lowrance 3200 digital, Epirb, Micron bottom paint. ATLANTIC SPORT FISHING, Pt. Pleasant, 201-899-1800.

EVINRUDE OUTBOARDS: We will meet or beat anyone's prices on '86 models right down to cost. Call us now. OMC props 20% off; Evinrude oil $27.99 case; 85 amp. marine battery $39.95. Teleflex cables 30% off. Parts, accessories. SEALAND, 516-842-1242.

1985 SEA RAY 25' 5" Amberjack 10' beam, 330 hp Merc. I/O. 40 hrs. Has it all + electronics. Cost $39,000 tax not incl. Save $7000 Firm. 718-366-7191. Home: 516-233-8676.

GROVER 26, 1980. Must sell. 120 hp Ford Lehman diesel, 500 hrs. Mieco Loran C, Si-Tex chart recorder, VHF. Pompanette quad base fish chair, insulated teak covered fish box. Stern tiller, teak main decks, portable head. Cabin heater, spare parts. Cruise pkg. Much more. 516-221-5148. 516-735-6169.

1985 8' SANDPIPER dinghy w/oars. Capacity 396 lbs. Will take up to 2 hp engine. Used 1 season. $400. 7-10PM or Wknds: 516-669-0651.

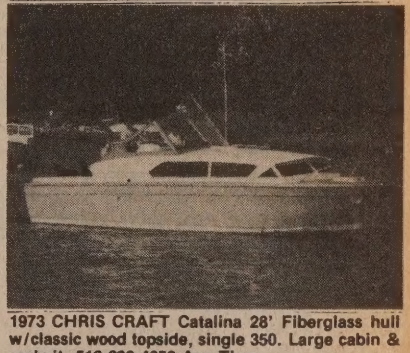
1984 PROLINE, '83 leftover, 20' cuddy, 1984 150 hp Evinrude limited edition. 60 hrs. on engine. New Mieco Loran, Standard VHF radio, 356 Si-Tex recorder. All installations done by professionals. Boat owned by licensed C.G. Capt. After 6PM: 516-868-9073. $12,000 takes all. Fully winterized.

BOSTON WHALER WANTED—17', any cond. with or without engine. Outrage any size, any year. Engine or not. Phone any time: 516-692-4352.

GLASSTRON Swinger 18', 115 hp Mercury O/B, PT&T 1976 pkg. Good cond. Yard maintained. $2800 best offer. Bet. 5&6: 516-437-0535.

27' SILVERTON Flybridge, VHF, CB, depth finder, glass hull. 225 Chrysler. In water. $9500. After 4PM: 516-289-5624.

Evinrude 175 1985, new power head. Factory warranty. Extra long shaft, SS prop, new hood, gas tanks. $3500. Days: 718-768-8700. Eves: 718-768-8700.



1973 CHRIS CRAFT Catalina 28' Fiberglass hull w/classic wood topside, single 350. Large cabin & cockpit. 516-692-4352 Any Time.

1984 PRIVATEER 20' C.C. 1985 Evinrude 90 hp, V-4 w/3-yr. factory warranty. Nelco Loran, chart recorder, 55 chan. VHF. Fbigass fish box, rod holders in & out custom covers. Boat purch. new in '85. Very low hrs. New cond. $8500. 718-934-2684.

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1984 PHOENIX 29', twin 260 Volvo, gas. Canyon ready. Electronics, fight chair. Numerous comfort, fishing options. $64,500. Call for details. 516-422-3109.

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1981 PRIVATEER 24' Chesapeake cabin w/full canvas. 1985 175 hp Evinrude, VHF, CB, 2 bilge pumps, dual batt. $16,500. 516-669-1824.

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TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

Continued On Next Page

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LORAN C—Used. Reconditioned by factory. Works good. Still under warranty. $350. 617-838-2709.

1979 SHORELINE Tandem wheel trailer, 9000 lb. capacity for 24'-27'. Never in saltwater. 914-226-4586. 516-667-0080.

BOAT SEATS—Back to back, fold-down & swivel seats. Assorted colors; factory prices. BUSTER'S MARINE SERVICE, 1911 Crossbay Blvd., Broad Channel, NY. 718-945-4377.

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LORAN Micrologic #3000. 100 way points, w/coupler antenna; instructions books. Easy to operate. $100 carrying case incl. Paid $1600; 2-yrs. old. Make reasonable offer. John Ricci, 212-421-3700.

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RADAR, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS INC., 377 Woodcleft Av, Freeport, NY; 516-623-4421.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. Trailer hitches installed. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY. 516-676-5313.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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MUSTAD HOOKS & Other Fine Tackle at sensible prices. Free catalog. TERMINAL TACKLE CO., Box 427, Kings Park, NY 11754.

VERY EXPENSIVE—Very Expensive—Very Expensive. Edelman's is NOT very expensive. See ad on Page 2.

FISH RAY—World's only portable hand-held Sonar. 1.5 lbs. Finds fish or sounds bottom to 99'. Reg. $159.95. Order direct & save $30. $129.95 or for brochure, write: B&I ELECTRONICS, 246 S. Main St., Albany, OR 97321; 503-928-5375.

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Tangle-free, tandem tied w/special stand-off knot. Used by sharpies. Sproat hooks for more hook-ups. 3/$3.75, incl. p/h. BILL SMITH, 158 Vermont Ave., Bay Shore, NY 11706.

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CODFISHERMEN: The offshore Georges Banks schedule on the Viking Starship will be out shortly. If you are serious about making any of these trips you must have the proper deep water jigging rod—be prepared. I also build rods for summer, Coxes Ledge, and winter, wreck, fishing. All rods are diamond wrapped at no extra cost. I also stock the strongest cod hooks & no tangle, no hardware rigs that are not avail. in any store. HARVEY, after 6PM: 201-677-9069.

MISCELLANEOUS

WALK-IN FREEZER. Inside dimensions 3' 6"X 5' 6" x 7' 6". GENE HOLLAND, 516-728-3344.

HELP WANTED: First mate, full time. Friendly, courteous persons only apply. Open Boat "Casey Lee," Bay Shore. 516-661-1867.

LICENSE PLATE FRAME says it for you. "I'd Rather Be Fishing." Non-rusting, hi-impact, black polystyrene w/raised white letters. 1-$4.95; 2-$8.95 + $1 p/h. Send ck or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Satisfaction guaranteed.

WANTED: 1980 to 1985 23' SEA OX center console without motor. 718-465-4062.

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BOAT UPHOLSTERY, chairs, cushions, seats, panels. Canvas repair. Zippers & plastic windows replaced. Dan, Eves: 666-3326.

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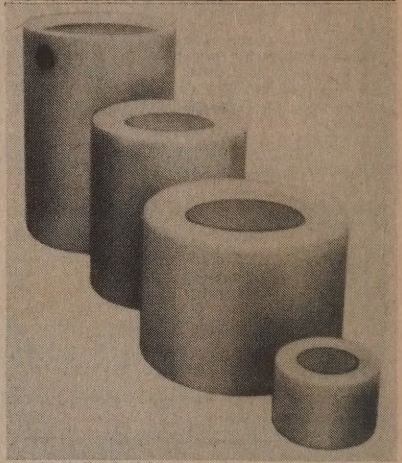

LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure, send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av, Dept. E, Central Islip, NY 11722; 516-234-0144.

RENTAL—Florida. Key Largo waterfront 2BR house/ac. Close to Pennekamp Coral Reef Park. Swimming, snorkeling, backcountry & ocean fishing. Week, monthly. After 5PM: 914-356-4297.

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NORTH SHORE TRAP CO., St. James, NY. 516-584-6870. Vinyl coated lobster, crab, eel traps and all lobstering equip.

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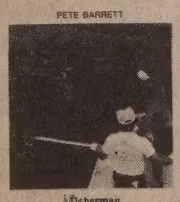

The Fisherman

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
The Fisherman
339 HERBERTSVILLE RD,
BRICK, NJ 08724

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	5:30	6:00	6:15	6:45	6:05	6:35	6:50	7:30	9:20	10:00	8:45	9:20	5:15	5:45	2/6
FRI.	6:20	6:50	7:10	7:35	6:55	7:25	7:45	8:20	10:15	10:55	9:40	10:15	6:10	6:35	2/7
SAT.	7:10	7:40	8:05	8:25	7:45	8:15	8:35	9:10	11:10	11:40	10:35	11:05	7:00	7:20	2/8
SUN.	7:55	8:20	8:50	9:10	8:35	9:05	9:25	9:55	11:55	—	11:25	11:45	7:50	8:10	2/9
MON.	8:40	9:05	9:35	9:55	9:20	9:50	10:10	10:40	12:20	12:40	—	12:10	8:30	8:50	2/10
TUES.	9:20	9:45	10:15	10:35	10:05	10:35	10:55	11:25	1:05	1:20	12:35	12:50	9:15	9:35	2/11
WED.	10:05	10:25	10:55	11:15	10:50	11:15	11:40	—	1:45	2:00	1:15	1:35	10:00	10:20	2/12
THURS.	10:45	11:10	11:35	—	11:30	—	12:00	12:25	2:20	2:40	1:55	2:20	10:40	11:05	2/13

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+4:03
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/6	7:07	5:22
FRI. 2/7	7:06	5:23
SAT. 2/8	7:05	5:24
SUN. 2/9	7:04	5:25
MON. 2/10	7:03	5:26
TUE. 2/11	7:02	5:27
WED. 2/12	7:01	5:28

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 2/6	5:38AM	2:28PM
FRI. 2/7	6:30AM	3:41PM
SAT. 2/8	7:10AM	4:56PM
SUN. 2/9	7:42AM	6:18PM
MON. 2/10	8:08AM	7:18PM
TUE. 2/11	8:31AM	8:24PM
WED. 2/12	8:52AM	9:27PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
2/9	2/16	2/24	3/3

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	2:25	8:35	2:45	9:05
Fri.	3:20	9:35	3:45	10:05
Sat.	4:20	10:25	4:35	10:55
Sun.	5:10	11:15	5:25	11:40
Mon.	5:55	—	6:20	12:05
Tues.	6:45	12:35	7:15	1:00
Wed.	7:30	1:20	8:00	1:45
Thurs.	8:20	2:10	8:45	2:30

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ALL L.I. ANGLERS

1986 FISHERMAN DERBY SCHEDULE

CAPTREE FLOUNDER
April 19-20

MORICHES FLOUNDER
May 3 - 4

CAPTREE FLUKE
June 29-30

MORICHES FLUKE
July 26 - 27

BLUEFISH SURF
October 18 - 19

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